

FirstGlimpseMag.com

# FirstGlimpse®

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Since 1979, Sandhills Publishing has produced publications covering technology beginning with the introduction of *Processor*. Over the years, the company has developed a complete line of computing publications, encompassing *Smart Computing*, *PC Today*, *Computer Power User*, and *First Glimpse*. Our plain-english approach has served audiences well for 30 years insuring they receive accurate and unbiased technology information to meet their needs.





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**On Our Cover:** Featured on this month's cover is TomTom's GO 740 LIVE GPS (\$399; [www.tomtom.com](http://www.tomtom.com)); Toshiba's REGZA SV670 Cinema Series of LED-backlit LCD HDTVs ((prices start at \$2,299; [tacp.toshiba.com](http://tacp.toshiba.com)), Nyko's Wand Core Pak (\$49.99; [www.nyko.com](http://www.nyko.com)), and Olympus' Stylus TOUGH-6000 Camera (\$299.99; [www.getolympus.com](http://www.getolympus.com)).

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## FirstGlimpse®

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## The Latest Arrivals

### Look For These New Products

Keep an eye out for these products hitting Best Buy shelves for the first time. Some of the items listed below are showcased in this month's one-page product profiles, so be sure to take a look at the listed page numbers for more information.

#### Home Theater

IOGEAR Wireless USB Audio/Video Kit

LG90 LCD TV Series (47- and 55-inch Class)

LG LHB953 Home Theater In A Box

Mitsubishi 737 Series DLP HDTVs  
■ **See page 18**

Samsung 640 Series LCD HDTVs

Samsung 7100 Series LED HDTVs

Samsung BD-P3600 Blu-ray Disc Player

Yamaha RX-V365 5.1-Channel Digital Home Theater Receiver

Yamaha RX-V465 5.1-Channel Digital Home Theater Receiver

Yamaha RX-V565 7.1-Channel Home Theater Receiver

Yamaha RX-V665 7.2-Channel Digital Home Theater Receiver

Yamaha YHT-391 Home Theater In A Box

#### Digital Imaging

Canon DC410 Camcorder

Canon FS20 Camcorder

Canon FS200 Camcorder

Canon HF-20 Camcorder

Canon HF-S10 Camcorder

Canon Rebel T1i D-SLR  
■ **See page 38**

Canon SD1200 IS Camera

Canon ZR960 Camcorder

Eye-Fi Explore Video Card

Eye-Fi Share Video Card  
■ **See page 44**

JVC HM200 Camcorder

JVC HD300 Camcorder

Panasonic HDC-HS250 Camcorder

Panasonic S26 Camcorder

Panasonic SDR-H80 Camcorder

Samsung F34 Camcorder

Samsung SC-DX205 Camcorder

Sony Webbie (MHSPM1/V) Camera

#### Computers

Razer Mamba Gaming Grade Wireless Mouse

#### Movie & TV Releases

• April 14 to 20 •

"Knots Landing: Complete Second Season" DVD

"Lost Concert Series: Dean Martin" DVD

"Mean Girls" BD

"Pride and Prejudice" BD

"The Reader" DVD

"The Spirit" DVD & BD

• April 21 to 27 •

"Arctic Tale" BD

"Dallas: Complete Eleventh Season" DVD

"Frost/Nixon" DVD & BD

"Hawaii Five-O: Complete Sixth Season" DVD

"The Wrestler" DVD & BD

"Tiny Toon Adventures: Season 1" DVD

"X-Men Trilogy Pack" BD

• April 28 to May 4 •

"Bride Wars" DVD & BD

"Hotel For Dogs" DVD & BD

"Jetsons: The Movie" DVD

"Little Bee" DVD

"Nicolas Sparks Film Collection" DVD

"Spin City: Complete Second Season" DVD

"Star Trek: Season 1" BD

"The Da Vinci Code" BD

"The Reader" BD

"The Uninvited" DVD & BD

"The Waltons: Complete Seasons 1-9" DVD

#### Music Releases

• April 14 to 20 •

"All That Jazz" Kate Ceberano

"Asleep In the Bread Aisle" Asher Roth

"Best Of Trick Pony" Trick Pony

"Forever In A Day" Day26

"Headstunts" The Datsuns

"Let's Stay Together" Al Green

"Live 1969" Simon & Garfunkel

"New King On The Block" Boome

"Shout Live" Mike Farris

"The Children's Suite" Phil Woods

• April 21 to 27 •

"Autumn In Nagasaki" Tangerine Dream

• April 28 to May 4 •

"Cabinet Of Curiosities" Jane's Addiction

"Cage The Elephant" Cage The Elephant

"Deeper Than Rap" Rick Ross

"How Big Can You Get?" Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

"Mean Everything To Nothing" Manchester Orchestra

"Rising" Great White

"Rock Steady" Richard Elliot

"Shallow Life" Lacuna Coil

"Sounds Of The Universe" Depeche Mode

"Tinted Windows" Tinted Windows

"Walking On A Dream" Empire Of The Sun

• April 28 to May 4 •

"Fast & Furious Original Soundtrack"

"Growing Up Is Getting Old" Jason Michael Carroll

"My One and Only Thrill" Melody Gardot

"Reality" Lisa McClendon

"The Essential Norman Hutchins" Norman Hutchins

"Together Through..." Bob Dylan

"Voice" Mike Jones





# ce news

COMPILED BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

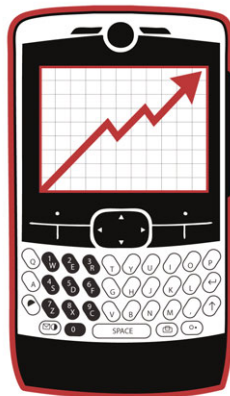
## ▶ TomTom's Latest Pathfinders

TomTom launched two new portable GPS devices that will help you get from point A to point B faster than ever. The TomTom One 140 and TomTom XL 340 both feature a smart routing capability called IQ Routes, which lets the devices direct you to your destination using the best route possible based on historic daily and hourly traffic patterns. IQ Routes gives users a faster route up to 35% of the time. TomTom's new models also offer advanced lane guidance and include maps of Mexico, 7 million points of interest, and map-share technology that lets you modify maps and share them with others. The TomTom One 140 starts at \$179, and the TomTom XL 340 starts at \$229.



## ▶ Mobile Apps Fuel Smartphone Growth

Smartphones are popular these days, and analysts predict that trend will continue for a while. In Juniper Research's "Next Generation Smartphones: Players, Opportunities & Forecasts 2008-2013" report, the firm predicts the smartphone share of the mobile market will grow to 23% by 2013. Another analysis firm, Informa Telecoms & Media, is even more optimistic, claiming that by 2013, 38% of all handsets sold worldwide will be smartphones. Both firms agree that smartphone growth will defy an overall decline in the cell phone market in the years to come. The reason for the growth? Both studies point to an abundance of useful and innovative over-the-air applications and mobile services designed for the various smartphone platforms, including Apple's iPhone, Microsoft Windows Mobile phones, Symbian devices, and Research In Motion's BlackBerry devices.



## ▶ Flagship Phones Show Carriers The Money

The most recent monthly Wireless E-Commerce Report from comScore indicates that, in terms of overall Web sales, the biggest revenue generators for carriers are the flagship phones, such as Apple's iPhone for AT&T, HTC's G1 for T-Mobile, and RIM's BlackBerry Storm for Verizon.



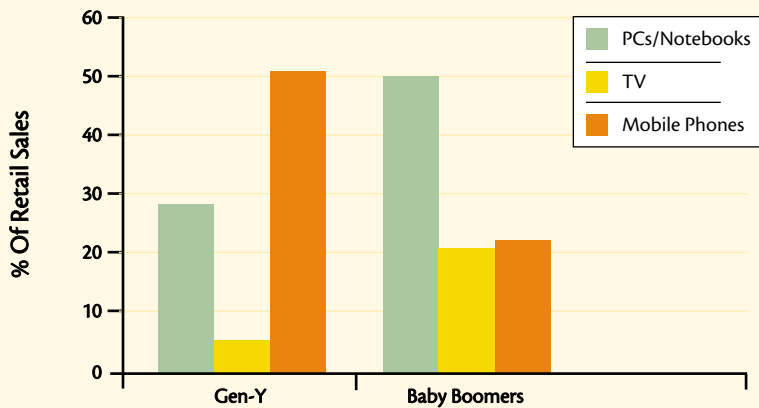


## m a r k e t p l a c e

## Preferred Consumer Electronics: Gen-Y vs. Baby Boomers

According to a recent study from Accenture, 51% of Gen-Y consumers (ages 18 to 24), prefer mobile phones over other consumer electronics they own, including TVs, gaming consoles, digital cameras, and desktop and notebook PCs. Alternately, by nearly the same margin, 50% of Baby Boomers (people ages 45 and up) prefer their desktops and notebooks over other consumer electronics.

Gen-Y vs. Baby Boomers

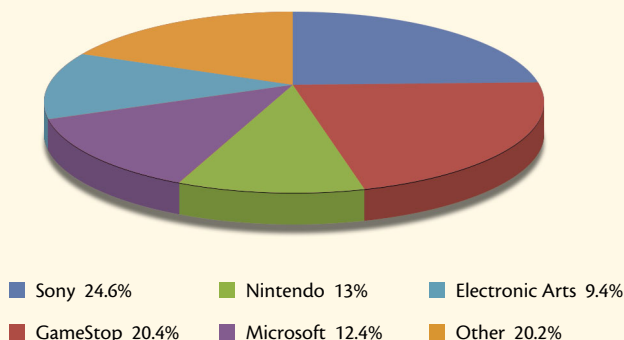


Source: Accenture

## Video Game Industry Matures

Video games aren't just kids' stuff anymore. A 2007 study determined the average age of gamers in the United States is 35 years, and the industry has matured in terms of its bottom line. A recent IBISWorld study reveals that the top five revenue earners in the video games industry account for nearly 79% of all revenues. Online gaming subscriptions were worth an estimated \$2.5 billion in 2008. The firm also expects continued growth at an average annual rate of 9.8% from now until 2013.

Top Video Game Industry Revenue Earners



FirstGlimpse

## tidbits

Despite a printer market that is slumping overall, color page copiers and MFPs appear to be recession-proof. Gartner reports that shipments of color page copiers and MFPs increased 13.2% in Q4, which marks the third consecutive quarter of growth.

Source: Gartner



Ovum reports that the mobile broadband biz is in for a boom in the next five years. The study reports that annual mobile broadband sales revenue will grow to \$137 billion in 2014, compared to just \$24.9 billion currently.

Ovum also reported that more than 2 billion people would use mobile broadband by 2014, worldwide.

Source: Ovum



Shipments of 120Hz LCD TV panels reached 3.3 million units in the fourth quarter of last year, which was unchanged from the previous quarter. Despite the lack of growth, 120Hz panels accounted for 16% of all 32-inch and larger TVs and 31% of 40-inch and larger TVs. That's up from 15% and 27%, respectively, in Q3 of last year.

Source: DisplaySearch



Shipments of notebook panels with LED backlighting grew by 62% (3.7 million units) in Q4 compared to Q3 2008 (2.3 million units). LED-backlit notebooks accounted for 13.4% of the market in Q4 compared to just 6.3% in Q3 2008. DisplaySearch expected that share to increase to 24.1% by the end of Q1 2009.

Source: DisplaySearch





Toshiba REGZA SV670 Cinema Series  
 46-inch model (46SV670U) \$2,299.99  
 55-inch model (55SV670U) \$2,999.99  
[tacp.toshiba.com](http://tacp.toshiba.com)

# Toshiba REGZA SV670 Cinema Series

## Beauty & Brains



**H**ow does one define beauty? A good place to start is letting your eyes soak in Toshiba's captivating new REGZA SV670 Cinema Series of LED-backlit LCD HDTVs (prices start at \$2,299; [tacp.toshiba.com](http://tacp.toshiba.com)). Donning a graceful, nature-inspired Deep Lagoon Design and svelte Infinity Flush Front bezel, the 46- and 55-inch models in the SV670 Series present a vision of elegance before ever powering one on.

But what good is beauty without brains? Not a problem with the SV670 Cinema Series, Toshiba's most advanced TVs ever. Boasting a full 1080p HD Cine-Speed LCD display, new FocalLight LED Backlight with Local Dimming system, new blur-battling ClearScan 240 with Backlight Scanning technology, and plenty of other know-how, Toshiba's REGZA SV670 Series HDTVs perform as brilliantly as they look.

### A Picture Of Beauty

If you believe in love at first sight, the SV670 Series will knock you over. Crafted with elements of nature in mind, the Deep Lagoon Design and Infinity Flush Front create a combined three-dimensional effect that evokes a sloping beachfront gradually encountering water. The

visual result is a slim, streamlined frame that cleverly hides invisible speakers and seamlessly secures a solid sheet of antireflective glass stretching across the entire front face.

### Heart & Soul

The brawn behind the SV670 Cinema Series' beauty is Toshiba's REGZA Engine. A newly improved PixelPure 5G (fifth-generation) 14-bit digital video processor serves as the engine's heart, while Resolution+ technology that up-converts and enhances 480i, 480p, and 720p signals for increased details sans artifacts represents the soul. Further, unlike lesser-edge LED-based HDTVs that forfeit peak white brightness for blacker blacks, the new FocalLight LED Backlight with Local Dimming system uses a matrix of dozens of individually controlled LED zones to generate the blackest blacks without sacrificing the brightest whites, resulting in an amazing 2,000,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio.

To reduce the on-screen blurring that fast-paced sports and movie action commonly produces, new ClearScan 240 technology bolsters a 120Hz frame rate with Blacklight Scanning Technology to create a 240Hz effect resulting in crisper, clearer full-motion video. Meanwhile, newly enhanced AutoView calibration

technology automatically adapts brightness, contrast, sharpness, and other picture settings to match the content playing on-screen with a room's ambient lighting—be it afternoon sunlight, night's pitch blackness, or any condition in between. Audio-wise, a new Dolby Volume Sound Leveler combats the aggravating inconsistent volume levels that occur when switching between TV channels or during loud commercials to output a consistently balanced, more pleasing listening experience.

### Well-Connected

The SV670 Cinema Series further demonstrates its media prowess by offering extensive connectivity options, including four HDMI digital inputs with enhanced REGZA-LINK (HDMI-CEC) support. A USB port, meanwhile, provides an easy-to-use avenue to listen to MP3 audio tracks and view JPEG images and MPEG-1/2 and DivX video. An SD card slot, IR pass-through port, and high-resolution PC Input are also onboard, while InstaPort technology handles switches among the HDMI inputs in a fraction of a second.

With looks to kill, smarts to satisfy, and the social graces to accept multiple external hardware connections, the SV670 Cinema Series will be the darling of any home theater. **TC**

# Future-Proof Your Home-Theater Purchase

## Spend Wisely For The Long-Term

**E**veryone wants the most bang for their buck, but it's wise to apply that sentiment to the long-term. When every dollar counts, it's smart to buy home-theater components that will last you a long, long time.

That means buying quality, but it also means buying technologies that won't become obsolete anytime soon. Here's a list of examples.

### Video

Your HDTV should support the best high-def resolution around, at least as far as movie discs, TV programming, and camcorders are concerned. Get a 1080p set, which is backward-compatible with other high- and standard-def resolutions, including 1080i, 720p, and 480i.

Your HDTV should also have multiple HDMI 1.3 ports, which can carry top-quality video and audio. Also, go with technologies that reduce motion blur, such as a 120Hz or faster refresh rate.

A BD player is more future-proof than a DVD player, as it can play high-def Blu-ray Discs and upconvert DVDs to look their best on an HDTV. Choose a model with an Internet connection and BD-Live capability, also known as BD Profile 2.0. BD-Live movie discs let you access

updated content online, such as movie trailers and exclusive features.

Verify that your BD player can play AVCREC or AVCHD discs. These formats let you burn high-def camcorder footage to inexpensive DVDs. Consider HDMI 1.3 support essential, too.

You already know that a DVR is a cable or satellite subscriber's best friend. Get one that supports HD, so that you can play back recorded high-def shows at their top quality. Make sure that your DVR supports an external hard drive, so you can add more capacity for recorded programs later.

A media extender frees up all the photos and videos on your family's PCs and lets you stream them to your HDTV. For wireless networking with minimal interruptions, look for a media extender that supports the 802.11n standard.

Some Internet TV set-top boxes and BD players also stream video from a download service, such as Netflix. It's a little early to tell how download services will evolve, but a streaming device will add a new dimension to your home theater.

### Audio

Most BD players can decode (play back) audio stored on BD movies in formats such as Dolby Digital Plus, but not all players can handle every format in full surround sound. It's better to rely on a



high-quality multichannel sound system with an HDMI 1.3 connection. Buy an audio receiver with full support for 7.1-channel DTS-HD Master Audio and Dolby Digital TruHD, as it will be backward-compatible with 5.1-channel playback and lesser formats such as DTS and Dolby Digital.

As for a wireless music system from vendors such as Sonos, choose one that's expandable with additional receivers, backward- and forward-compatible with the manufacturer's add-ons, and that comes with free updates. **FG**

BY MARTY SEMS



# The PC Meets The TV

## Home-Theater Convergence



omputers and the Internet are so good at storing and delivering multimedia, and home theaters are so good at playing

it back that it's only natural for these two formerly disparate concepts to merge. Of course, the real challenge is getting all of that equipment to communicate with one another, but that's where a variety of consumer electronics and networking hardware come in.

Getting content stored on a PC to your home-theater setup is easy, thanks to products such as media extenders, which stream content from a PC over your home network (see the "Get Ready To Stream" sidebar). But if you want to access digital multimedia without having to leave your PC on, the best solution is a standalone media hub with lots of storage (500GB to 1TB or more is ideal). These stream content over your home network to your home theater with no PC required.

Some products can duplicate your PC display on an HDTV so you can access much more than multimedia. One example is the IOGEAR Wireless USB to VGA Adapter Kit (\$229.95; [www.iogear.com](http://www.iogear.com)). Simply plug the included USB adapter into your PC and then attach the included VGA adapter to your HDTV. The devices communicate wirelessly to display what appears on your PC screen on the HDTV. The system works at distances up to 30 feet or up to 15 feet when streaming 720p



IOGEAR Wireless  
USB to VGA Adapter Kit  
(\$229.95; [www.iogear.com](http://www.iogear.com))

high-definition video (1080i and 1080p are not supported).

In addition to streaming, a number of consumer electronics have started incorporating features to make using them with your home theater easier than ever. Most video-game consoles provide Internet access, so they can serve as media hubs or media extenders. Some consoles, such as the Xbox 360, can use a Netflix ([www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com)) account to stream movies and TV shows right to your home theater. Modern camcorders let you edit footage directly on the device and feed the resulting video—even HD video—directly to an HDTV, and most MP3 players can connect directly to a home theater to deliver high-quality digital audio. Even Blu-ray Disc players can connect to the Internet, so you are able to enjoy extra content via the BD-Live option included on some discs.

When shopping for electronics, always be on the lookout for products with network connectivity and outputs that are compatible with your home-theater system. It is surprising how many devices these days—PCs or otherwise—can deliver content directly to your home theater. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

## Get Ready To Stream

**S**treaming technology lets you store multimedia on one device and watch or listen to it on another device. Here's the basic hardware you need to benefit from streaming:

**Router.** A router connects devices so they can share data and a single Internet connection. For best results, get a router that supports 802.11g, 802.11a, and 802.11n for maximum compatibility and performance.

**Broadband Internet connection.** You need a fast connection to supply the bandwidth necessary for streaming high-definition video. Many devices provide this streaming functionality, including set-top boxes, video game consoles, Blu-ray Disc players, and even some TVs.

**PC storage.** High-quality multimedia requires a lot of storage space, so you'll need a large hard drive or an external drive to hold all that data.

**Playback device.** Finally, you need a streaming media player that connects to both your home theater and the network that supports the formats you want to stream. ●

# Furniture For All

## Deck Out Your Media Room

**T**he best complement to your new home-theater system is a room full of furniture specially designed to improve your home-theater experience.

Whether you are partaking in your weekly family movie night, hosting friends for the big game, or curling up to watch TV on your own, the furniture in your media room can impact the overall pleasure you get from your home-theater system.

### The Perfect Stand

The TV stand is a staple item in most media rooms. When making your selection, be sure to keep the size and the weight of your TV in mind, as well as features that may be useful. For example, consider ventilation provisions, which help prevent overheating, and cable wire management, which can help keep wires neat and tidy. Properly managed cables can also make it easier to figure out which cable belongs to each home-theater component, in turn simplifying cleaning and adding or removing components.

### Bold Storage

Your TV stand not only holds your TV, but it can also provide storage for other electronics, such as your DVD player, set-top boxes, and video game consoles. Some also have drawers and shelves for other things, such as DVDs/BDs (Blu-ray Discs), video games, and CDs.

If you prefer a standalone unit for storing your media collection, consider purchasing media towers. Whether you want a simple tower with lots of slots for your media collection or a cabinet that mixes well with your media room's décor, you can find storage for hundreds of CDs,

BDs, and DVDs. If you have a small media collection, you can purchase smaller storage units, as well. Also, media storage comes in a wide price range, so there's a media storage solution for every budget.

### Put Your Feet Up & Relax

Finally, one of the best things about watching a movie or your favorite sitcom is snuggling into your chair and relaxing. As you plan for the seating in your media room, consider purchasing high-end modular furniture with spill-resistant upholstery. You can even purchase chairs with cup holders—just like at the movie theater. Home theaters are also great for

gaming, and your local CE retailer is bound to have the perfect gaming chair for you that's specially designed to keep you comfortable during long sessions. Additionally, some gaming chairs come with built-in speakers to further immerse you in the game.

All you need now is a good set of blinds to keep the light out while you're watching the latest blockbuster, and you're ready to reap the maximum enjoyment from your home-theater system. **FG**

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN

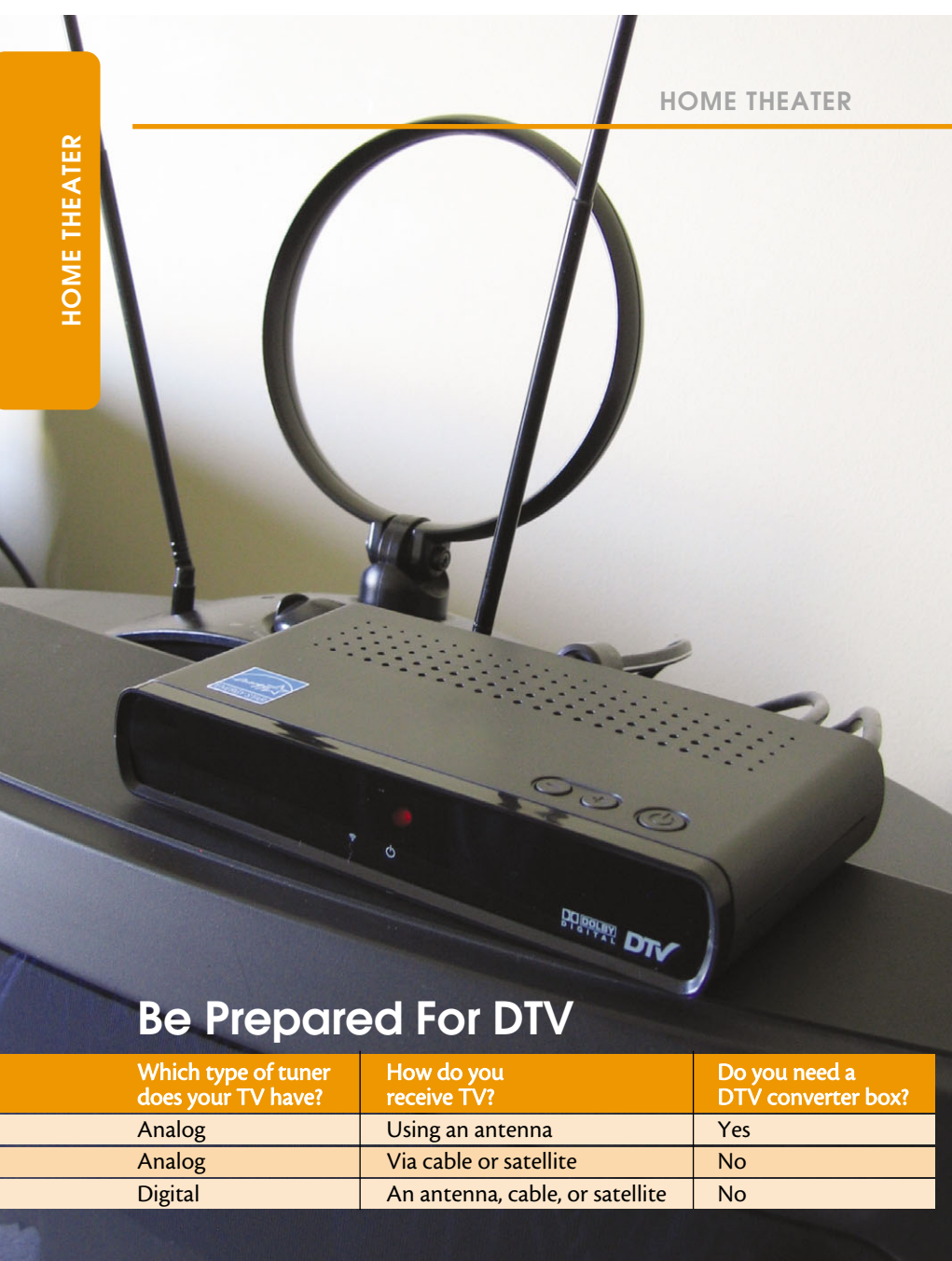


## Hang It Up With An HDTV Mount

If you'd prefer to get your HDTV up off the floor and out of the way, consider a TV mount instead of a stand. There are several types of wall mounts you can purchase for your HDTV, including low-profile, tilting, and full-motion. For detailed information on the benefits of using an HDTV mount, read "Don't Forget The Wall Mount" on page 20. You can also learn about the different options currently available from Sanus with our "Choose The Right Sanus TV Mount" chart on page 21. ●







## Be Prepared For DTV

Which type of tuner does your TV have?	How do you receive TV?	Do you need a DTV converter box?
Analog	Using an antenna	Yes
Analog	Via cable or satellite	No
Digital	An antenna, cable, or satellite	No

# There's Still Time

## A Digital TV Transition Update

If you are one of the nearly 6% of Americans, according to a January survey from The Nielsen Company, that is unprepared for the switch to digital TV, you'll want to mark June 12 on your calendar. The new transition deadline means that if you use an antenna to receive TV and your television doesn't feature a built-in digital tuner, you only

have a little time before you absolutely must connect a DAC (digital-to-analog converter) to watch over-the-air TV.

### What Is A DAC?

A DAC (or DTV converter box) converts a digital signal to an analog output that can be used by an analog TV. If your TV has a digital tuner or you subscribe to cable or satellite, you don't need a DTV

converter box; your existing cable and satellite equipment already transforms the signal. Only those that receive TV via antenna on a TV with an analog tuner are affected by the transition.

### Why The Delay?

Congress wanted to give consumers more time to purchase converter boxes before mandating the change. Additionally, the Senate allocated more money to government coupons for the boxes. The bill allows households to reapply for coupons using some of the funds in the \$650 million coupon program. As of press time, coupons were being sent to households that had been placed on a waiting list.

### What If I Haven't Purchased A DAC?

In addition to changing the deadline, the Senate adjusted the bill so that broadcasters can drop the analog signal anytime before June 12. Thus, it's a good idea to pick up a DTV converter box as soon as possible, or you may end up missing some channels from your TV lineup.

### What If I've Already Purchased A DAC?

Go ahead and connect the DTV converter box to your antenna and the TV. Nearly all broadcast stations now produce a digital over-the-air signal, so you won't miss out on any of your favorite programming. Additionally, you may find that station's digital signal offers more channels, such as 8-1, 8-2, and 8-3, that you couldn't receive via the analog over-the-air signal. A digital signal is more efficient than analog, so broadcast stations can fit more channels into the same wavelength spectrum. The digital station should also offer improved picture and sound quality. Note that stations that made the DTV transition early may use a different frequency after the transition, so it'd be wise to regularly rescan for channels on your DTV converter box. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

# Yes, You Need To Calibrate

## Get Optimal HDTV Video Results

**T**he HDTV is the center of attention in any home-theater setup. To ensure that it is providing the best video results, consider a professional HDTV calibration.

### Your Video May Not Be All That It Seems

While every HDTV owner is unique, the display settings on an HDTV may not be. If you want to ensure lifelike image quality for your HDTV, you'll need a professional to perform a calibration.

- Most TVs are shipped with a set standard video mode meant for an electronics store display—this means that the TV's settings are adjusted to show the best picture in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because it's unlikely your lighting at home matches the store's surroundings, you should have your TV professionally calibrated by an ISF (Imaging Science Foundation)-certified specialist to

accommodate your home's unique lighting environment.

- An HDTV's viewing angle and your home-theater setup also affect how your HDTV should be calibrated. An ISF-certified professional takes these factors into account when making adjustments.
- Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

### Why A Professional Calibration?

Instead of taking a chance with your HDTV investment, rely on professionals to handle the work for you.

- Calibration specialists are ISF-certified, which means they are trained to use highly specialized and expensive equipment to calibrate HDTVs correctly.
- A calibration DVD may be a tempting alternative, but it won't let you adjust all of your HDTV's settings. An ISF-certified professional can access advanced service menus to calibrate your TV correctly. These settings aren't

meant to be experimented with, so if you poke around and gain access to your TV's service menu, it's best to leave it alone. Many people have rendered their TV useless because they didn't know which settings they were changing.

- Calibration DVDs only adjust video settings for your HDTV's DVD input. This means when you're watching video from a source other than a DVD, your picture won't be calibrated. A professional calibration takes care of two source inputs, such as your DVD player and cable box inputs.

### What You Can Expect

An in-home calibration service will typically last about two hours and includes the following:

- A professional will use color-analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible, letting you see video exactly the same way it looked when it was created.
- Your HDTV's contrast will be set up to provide greater video detail, as well as the darkest blacks and brightest whites.
- No matter which calibrated source input you are using, you will enjoy the best image clarity and sharpness that your HDTV can provide. **FC**



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# HDTVs

## The Goods On LCDs, Plasmas & RPTVs

### LCD

#### Pros

- The thin profiles and light weight of these TVs make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.
- Many LCD TVs have a VGA input, so you can hook up your computer and view content on a big, bright screen.
- Altitude and air pressure have no effect on LCD TVs, so performance doesn't suffer in the mountains.
- Image burn-in is unlikely.

#### Cons

- Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer effect, but because LCD technology has improved, the effect has become barely perceptible.
- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black, which can be distracting on-screen.

#### Best For

- Bright, sunny kitchens
- Small rooms

### Plasma

#### Pros

- Plasma TVs' light phosphors evenly across the screen to create images, and the images are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high (30,000:1), so you'll see deep, dark blacks and bright, crisp whites.
- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 50 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

#### Cons

- Although the risk has been greatly reduced through advances in flat-screen technology, some plasma TVs are still susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- A combination of low air pressure and high altitudes (6,500 feet and higher) may cause plasma TVs to buzz.

#### Best For

- Movies with nonstop action
- Sporting events

### RPTV

#### Pros

- RPTVs (rear-projection TVs) are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (65 inches and larger).
- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than LCD or plasma TVs.

#### Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.
- RPTVs still require that lamps be replaced every few years, which may cost a few hundred dollars.

#### Best For

- Big, roomy home theaters
- Movies and games



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# Essential

## THINGS TO KNOW

### MAKE YOUR HOME THEATER GREEN

**Q** How much of my monthly electric bill is linked to my home theater?

**A** That's difficult to narrow down, but according to the Consumer Electronics Association, home-entertainment and home-office devices combined account for 12% of the average residential electric bill.

**Q** Is there any kind of seal of approval I can look for to be sure I'm buying energy-efficient electronics?

**A** Look for the Energy Star logo ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)). You'll find it on products that meet or exceed the energy-efficiency guidelines that have been established by the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Q** What's the biggest potential electricity hog in a home theater?

**A** Plasma TVs are often singled out as the hungriest devices, but the same is true for LCD TVs, as well. Last year, some manufacturers began making new plasma models more energy-efficient than their predecessors.

**Q** Which is more energy-efficient: separate components or an HTB?

**A** All things being more or less equal, an HTB (home theater in a box) should be a bit more efficient. That's because all the components are designed and manufactured with an eye toward them working together.

**Q** Is there such a thing as green home-theater furniture?

**A** Absolutely. Furniture makers that keep it green use wood from managed forests, avoid using materials that can emit toxic particles, and so on. For one example, check out the media furniture from Maria Yee.

**Q** How can I use a power strip to save electricity?

**A** Get a power strip or surge suppressor with an On and Off switch. You can then cut the power to all the devices attached to it when your system isn't in use.

**Q** If I cut the power to my components, won't I lose my time display and timer settings?

**A** Go for a power strip or suppressor with two separate circuits. The Off switch kills the power to most of the outlets, while a few outlets continue to provide uninterrupted electricity.

**Q** How can my system use energy even when I'm not using it?

**A** Even when their power switch is in the off position, some electronic components aren't actually turned completely off. Instead, they continue to draw a small amount of current, sometimes referred to as vampire power.

**Q** What kinds of components draw vampire power?

**A** If a component has an LED display that's always on, or if it spends its downtime in standby mode, ready to receive a signal from a remote control, then it's continually sipping electricity.

**Q** What are responsible options for getting rid of components I'm replacing?

**A** If you can't sell them, and they're still operable, donate devices to a school, church, or civic group. If they're broken and beyond repair, check out the recycling program at your local CE retailer.





## Accessories & Services

**A**s you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories. Sure, these accessories have multichannel audio, gold-plated connectors, nitrogen-injected insulation, and fully articulating mounting arms, but they

can't compete visually with their big-screen flat-panel HDTV counterparts. Despite outward appearances, however, there are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. The following is a rundown of accessories we recommend to complete your home-theater setup. **FG**

### WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS

- Enable you to view your HDTV from the best possible angle
- Give you the ability to adjust your HDTV when necessary
- Maximize space in your living area

### HDMI CABLES

- Carry uncompressed digital audio/video signals to and from your HDTV and its components
- Shielding in higher-end models eliminates interference from other components
- Well-built connectors ensure a snug, stable fit

### CLEANING KIT

- Protect your HDTV's screen by using specially formulated sprays and cloths
- Eliminates the dangers of scratching delicate screens
- No-drip formulas prevent damaging other home-theater equipment

### CORD-CONCEALMENT KIT

- Hide multiple cords while keeping them organized
- Minimize cord clutter, especially with wall-mounted sets
- Keep the focus on your new HDTV, not the cords connected to it

### UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL

- Simplify your home-theater setup with one remote that can control all of your components
- Program functions to watch a movie with the click of one button, for example
- Easily view options in the dark with a backlit LCD

### SURGE PROTECTORS/POWER CONDITIONERS

- Save your home theater from potential damage by using a surge protector that will absorb electrical fluctuations
- Filter out "dirty power," also known as electrical "noise" and radio interference, that can degrade your home theater's audio and video with a power conditioner
- Have peace of mind knowing that your home theater will give you its peak performance for the longest amount of time

### SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEM

- Maximize your HDTV experience with more theater-like audio
- Feel like you're in the movie scene instead of just watching it
- Even out softer and louder programming with an equalizer

### TV STANDS

- Offer flexibility if you're unable to mount your HDTV on the wall
- Available in a variety of finishes to match any décor
- Provide a place for additional home-theater equipment

### HOME-THEATER SERVICES

A home theater is a pretty big investment, so it's wise to consider letting a professional handle your installation and setup. Let your local CE retailer tackle the following tasks, and you'll be able to enjoy the full glory of HD in no time.

- Home Theater In-Home Consultation
- TV Recycling
- TV Calibration
- TV Mounting & Cord Concealment
- Remote Control Programming
- Speaker Setup

# HDTV Glossary

**B** alderdash! OK, HDTV jargon isn't *that* bad, but there are a few terms every shopper should know. Here's your cheat sheet.

**aspect ratio**—Put simply, it's the shape of the TV's screen. An HDTV has a wider picture than a traditional TV of the same vertical screen height. An HDTV has a 16:9 aspect ratio, meaning that if its screen were 16 inches wide, it would be 9 inches tall. A regular 4:3 TV screen would be 12 inches wide at the same 9-inch height.

**HDMI**—High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a type of cable connection that carries both high-resolution video and uncompressed multichannel audio among HDTVs, home-theater receivers, and other components. HDMI cables maintain top picture and sound quality.

**HD tuner**—Some more expensive HDTVs include a built-in tuner for receiving local high-def broadcast TV channels. Your TV doesn't need an HD tuner if you have cable or satellite service. Separate HD tuners and antennas are available for HDTVs without them.

**interlaced**—When an HDTV displays an interlaced image, as in 1080i or 480i resolutions, it really shows you every other horizontal line of a frame of video (called a field) at a time. Sixty times a second, the TV displays the other field of the frame, meaning the lines not shown in the previous field. Interlaced video appears to flicker and causes moving objects on-screen to have blurred edges.

**LCD (liquid-crystal display)**—Like a notebook's screen, an LCD HDTV uses



a fluid crystal substance to form pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs may not be able to match plasma TVs' deep black and gray areas, but they're lighter, sometimes less fragile, and considered easier to set up. These work better in brighter rooms or if you will be playing unchanging images on the screen for an extended period of time.

**plasma**—Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel. Electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas create deeper blacks and sometimes brighter colors than LCDs and have better contrast. These also offer slightly better viewing angles. However, older or less expensive models can also suffer permanent screen damage if an unchanging image is displayed too long, such as a TV channel's stock ticker or parts of certain video games.

**progressive scan**—A TV showing a progressively scanned image, as in 1080p or 720p resolutions, displays a full frame

of video (both odd-lined and even-lined fields) all at once. Progressive-scan video looks sharper and doesn't flicker like interlaced images can.

**projection**—Some large-screen HDTVs offer lower-priced alternatives to LCDs or plasmas by using projection technologies. These technologies vary, but all projection TVs throw light on a screen from the front or rear. This means they are bulkier than plasmas or LCDs, but some rear-projection sets have stellar picture quality.

**viewing angle**—No matter where you sit in front of an HDTV with a wide viewing angle, such as 170 degrees, its picture should look reasonably good. Test this before you buy.

**widescreen**—A TV or monitor that's wider horizontally in relation to its vertical height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio rather than an older 4:3 display.





## DLP HDTV

### Watch It Live



### Mitsubishi 737 Series 1080p Home Theater TVs (WD-60737/WD- 65737/WD-73737)

**MSRP: 60-inch model \$1,499**

SKU: 9300455

**MSRP: 65-inch model \$1,799**

SKU: 9301212

**MSRP: 73-inch model \$2,499**

SKU: 9301276

[www.mitsubishi-tv.com](http://www.mitsubishi-tv.com)

#### Quick Overview

The all new Mitsubishi 737 Home Theater TV Series is highly energy efficient and delivers sharp, true-to-life video to your living room in full 1080p HD. The series features 3D-ready viewing technology so you can enjoy movies and video games that also support 3D technology. The embedded picture technologies from Mitsubishi are engineered to provide you with natural, vibrant colors and a crisp image.

#### Perfect For

Those who want a larger than life, intensely vivid viewing experience.

#### Outstanding Benefits

- 60-, 65-, and 73-inch screen sizes
- Improved DeepField Imager technology to help you find the optimal brightness and contrast settings
- Improved SharpEdge technology that provides crisp, precise edges
- Improved Video Noise Reduction technology for a clearer image
- UltraThin Frame for a big picture in a small space
- 3D-ready\* so you can enjoy 3D movies and games
- Energy Star 3.0 for energy efficiency
- Advanced Video Calibration Mode
- Perfect Color technology to bring out bright, natural color tones

#### Coollest Feature

The 3D-ready viewing technology delivers a more intense HDTV experience with 3D-ready media.

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## LCD HDTV

# HDTV With Integrated Internet Access



LG 42LH50 42" Full  
HD 1080p Broadband  
120Hz LCD TV  
(42.0" diagonal)

MSRP: \$1,599.99

SKU: N/A

[www.LGusa.com](http://www.LGusa.com)

### Quick Overview

Featuring LG's NetCast Entertainment Access, the 42LH50 can stream TV shows and movies from Netflix, play YouTube videos, and access your favorite Web services (including real-time weather, stock tickers, and Flickr images) on-screen via Yahoo! Widgets. The 42-inch 1080p HDTV also features LG's 120Hz technology for smoother video and a 80,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio for lifelike video.

### Perfect For

People who want to stream online Netflix and YouTube videos and access online content on their home theater without using a PC.

### Outstanding Benefits

- **NetCast Entertainment Access**—Stream movies, TV Shows, and video and get up to the minute news, stock information, and weather updates to you your TV
- **TruMotion 120Hz**—for handling fast-motion video
- **Intelligent Sensor**—Optimizes your picture to the lighting conditions in the room
- **Full HD 1080p Resolution**—delivers high-quality video resolution
- **80,000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio**—superior difference between bright and dark colors
- **Picture Wizard**—on-screen test pattern so you can calibrate the TV to fit your environment

### Coollest Feature

Yahoo! Widget access allows you to view the best of the Internet directly on the 42LH50.



# Don't Forget The Wall Mount

## New Mounting Systems From Sanus Offer Many Benefits

Mounts provide a practical way to display flat-panel HDTVs, whether you're relaxing on the living room couch for a movie or catching the evening news while dicing vegetables in the kitchen. Full-featured mounting systems exist for hanging TVs on walls, under cabinets, on desks, even from the ceiling. These systems don't just bolt your screen to a surface—they offer several additional benefits that can increase the enjoyment of your new HDTV.

### Why Mount Your TV?

Mounting a TV lets you create a larger, more open walking area in the living room or free up precious kitchen counter space. Even if you have plenty of room, your family and friends will compliment the attractive, modern style that a mount can give your home.

Wall-mounting your flat-panel HDTV creates a safer environment for both your family and your equipment. You

won't need to worry about the youngest members of your family tumbling into the corner of a media stand or tripping on or pulling out power cords. And with your TV on the wall, there's less of a chance that it will be bumped or knocked over when the kids start roughhousing.

A variety of wall mount types exist that can help you position your HDTV. Sanus' Full Motion mounts, for example, extend, retract, tilt, and swivel, so no matter whether movie night finds you in the recliner or on the floor, you can always position your TV for the best viewing angle. Tilting mounts, which can be angled up or down to eliminate glare, are perfect for rooms with an abundance of light from windows. Low-Profile mounts, which position your HDTV as close to the wall as possible, are ideal for dedicated home-theater rooms where the TV will be fixed in a single location that offers the best viewing angle for all available seating.

Sanus VisionMount wall mounts can solve even the toughest viewing obstacles, whether you're combating screen glare or space concerns.

### Choose The Right Mount

In short, mounts exist for just about any room situation or household budget. Finding the right mount for your HDTV is as easy as visiting the Sanus Web site and using the MountFinder, which narrows down the wall mounts that are compatible with your TV's model. **FG**



## Mounting vs. Table/Shelving Units

Wall mounts for HDTVs offer some distinct advantages over tables, shelving units, and countertops. They:






















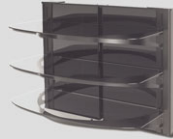

- free up floor space and clear walkways
- are safer for households with pets and young children
- offer easy ways to reposition the screen
- give you more flexibility in selecting screen height in large rooms
- can pull away from the wall to give easy access to ports on the back of the TV

**FirstGlimpse**

# Choose The Right Sanus TV Mount

**SANUS™**  
S Y S T E M S









The Sanus VisionMount line of universal wall mounts provides a variety of smart ways to display your flat-panel TV. In addition to complementing its sleek design, securing your TV to the wall saves space, adds safety (no accidental bumping or falling), and discourages theft. Sanus also offers MountFinder, available at [mountfinder.sanus.com](http://mountfinder.sanus.com), to help you find all compatible mounts for your specific TV. For more information on Sanus mounts, visit [Sanus.com](http://Sanus.com) or [BestBuy.com](http://BestBuy.com).

VisionMount Size				
	Television Size & Screen Technology	Full-Motion Mounts	Tilting Mounts	Low-Profile Mounts
		 <p>For perfect viewing from anywhere in the room. Extend, retract, tilt, and swivel your TV.</p>	 <p>Tilting mounts tilt up and down to increase viewing angles and help to reduce reflections from windows or lighting.</p>	 <p>Low-profile mounts attach nearly flush to the wall to maximize the sleek, thin lines of flat-panel TVs.</p>
	13- To 26-inch LCD TVs	<p>MF202 SKU 8327713</p>  <p>SF213 SKU 9004356</p>  <p>MF215 SKU 8327697</p> 		
	26- To 42-inch LCD TVs	<p>MF202 SKU 8327713</p>  <p>MF110 SKU 8180648</p>  <p>MF215 SKU 8327697</p>  <p>VM400 SKU 7041373</p> 	<p>MT25 SKU 6948798</p> 	<p>ML22 SKU 7022919</p> 
	37- To 56-inch LCD Or Plasma TVs	<p>VMAA18 SKU 7439765</p>  <p>VMSA SKU 6738104</p> 	<p>VMPL50 SKU 7859249</p> 	
	42- To 63-inch LCD Or Plasma TVs		<p>VMPL3 SKU 7269546</p>  <p>LT25 SKU 8911984</p> 	<p>LL22 SKU N/A</p> 
	Vertical AV Foundations			
	 <p>Combine the storage and capacity of a cabinet with the discreet look of a low-profile wall mount that will complement any decor.</p>			
	<p>VF2012-B1 SKU 8783925</p>  <p>VF2022-B1 SKU 8783934</p>  <p>VF5023-B1 SKU 8881249</p>  <p>VF5022-B1 SKU 9037062</p> 			



## Which LCD TV Is Best For You?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding *which* LCD TV to invest in. With all the models on today's market, you want to be sure the model you select is the best for you and your family. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.









		Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate
What It Means		The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is redrawn every second
	<b>Panasonic VIERA TC-L37X1</b> MSRP: \$799.95* SKU 9235124	37 inches	22.8x36.1x3.9 inches; 36 pounds (with stand)	720p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 1 DVI; 1 S-Video; 1 Component; 2 Composite; 1 PC; 1 RF	1 audio	60Hz
	<b>Insignia NS-LCD47HD-09</b> MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 8632875	47 inches	30x44x4 inches; 58.4 pounds (with stand)	1080p	178 degrees	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 S-Video; 1 RF	2 audio	N/A
	<b>LG 42LH50</b> MSRP: \$1,699* SKU N/A	42 inches	25.9x41.4x3.6 inches; 37.9 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 HD Component; 2 Composite; 1 RF; 1 USB; 1 LAN	1 audio	N/A
	<b>Samsung LN46B640</b> MSRP: \$1,899* SKU N/A	46 inches	30.4x46.1x3.1 inches; 44.8 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 2 USB; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz
	<b>Sharp AQUOS LC-52D85U</b> MSRP: \$2,299.99* SKU 9034243	52 inches	31.34x49.3x3.16 inches; 52.9 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	5 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 PC	N/A	120Hz
	<b>Mitsubishi LT-52149</b> MSRP: \$2,999* SKU 8961634	52 inches	31.5x47.7x4.8 inches; 83.8 pounds (with stand)	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 3 Component; 2 S-Video; 2 Composite	2 audio	120Hz
	<b>Toshiba Regza 55SV670U</b> MSRP: \$2,999.99* SKU N/A	55 inches	53.62x33.03x4.43; N/A	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 1 PC; 1 USB; 1 SD	2 audio	ClearScan 240Hz
	<b>Sony Bravia KDL-46XBR8</b> MSRP: \$4,699.99* SKU 8996508	46 inches	27x49.625x5.75 inches; 71.6 pounds	1080p	178 degrees	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 3 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	1 audio	120Hz

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

\*\*unless specified, this is without stand

## Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning on buying a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

		Size	Dimensions; Weight**	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best displayed in the native resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to peripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is redrawn every second
	<b>Samsung PN42B450</b> MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9235259	42 inches	26x41.6x2.9 inches; 61.3 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	600Hz
	<b>Panasonic VIERA TC-P42X1</b> MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 9219213	42 inches	N/A	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 2 Composite	1 audio	N/A
	<b>Panasonic VIERA TC-P50X1</b> MSRP: \$1,099.95* SKU 9219062	50 inches	32.125x48x4.125 inches; 75 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 S-Video; 2 Component; 2 Composite	1 audio	60Hz
	<b>Samsung PN50B450</b> MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9239371	50 inches	29.5x48.1x2.9 inches; 77.2 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	600Hz
	<b>LG 50PG60</b> MSRP: \$2,499.98* SKU 8962045	50 inches	31.2x48.7x3.1 inches; 87.5 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF; 1 PC	3 audio	180Hz
	<b>Hitachi P50X902</b> MSRP: \$3,199* SKU 9015692	50 inches	31.9x48.9x4.25 inches; N/A	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI; 2 Component; 1 S-Video; 1 RF	1 audio	60Hz
	<b>LG 60PG60</b> MSRP: \$4,099.95* SKU 8961965	60 inches	36.4x57.3x3.3 inches; 113.9 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 2 Component; 2 Composite; 1 S-Video; 1 USB	2 audio	180Hz
	<b>Pioneer PRO-141FD</b> MSRP: \$7,000* SKU 8982979	60 inches	34.5x57.68x2.53 inches; 110 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI; 1 Component; 1 Composite; 1 PC	N/A	60Hz

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

\*\*unless specified, this is without stand



# Gifts For Moms

## Show Her How Thankful You Are

**A**pril showers bring May flowers, and May brings Mother's Day. If you're looking to get your mom a gift that's both thoughtful and useful, give her more than just flowers. The right electronic gadget will enhance her favorite activities and be a gift she'll remember for years to come. To help you find the perfect present for Mom, here are some gift-giving options.

### HD Gifts

If Mom likes to keep up on the latest local and national news while working on the computer in the home office, a compact or wall-mountable HDTV is the perfect solution. For example, LG's 32LH40 (\$949; [www.lge.com](http://www.lge.com)) is a 32-inch, 1080p HDTV that measures only 3.2 inches deep and is compatible with VESA 200mm wall mounts. LG's 32LH40 also includes an intelligent sensor that optimizes the picture to match the lighting conditions of the room, a handy feature for home offices that receive natural light for parts of the day.

Moms with young ones attend a lot of events that make for great home videos, including recitals and T-ball games. An HD camcorder, such as JVC's GZMG670 (\$479.99; [www.jvc.com](http://www.jvc.com)), will allow Mom to capture footage that is pristine in appearance. The GZMG670 also features a

35X optical zoom, so she can shoot up-close action on video, even when she's sitting in faraway stands. The camera's image stabilization will also help minimize blur in her videos, which is especially handy in a crowded setting where a tripod may not fit easily.

### Photo Magic

Compact cameras are great for shutterbug moms who love to take pictures. Models with a slim design, such as Canon's PowerShot SD1200 IS (\$229.99; [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)) can even fit in a clutch or small handbag. The PowerShot SD1200 IS captures 10MP images, which are large enough for quality 8x10 prints, and with Canon's Face Detection technology, it finds and tracks face movement to capture portraits where everyone is in focus. Moms who don't want to fiddle with shooting modes and manual settings will enjoy the SD1200 IS' Smart AUTO mode that analyzes the scene and selects the correct camera settings.

You could also give Mom a digital photo frame so she can play a slideshow of her favorite images. Kodak's P720 (\$99.95; [www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)) 7-inch screen features a touchscreen border to keep fingerprints off the display and provide an easy way to navigate and select images. Mom can use the P720's automatic on/off settings to choose when she wants photos to be shown. Kodak includes two SD memory card slots to increase photo and

video storage space, and the frame can also display media stored on a USB flash drive. Interchangeable silver and red mattes are included to match the frame to surrounding décor. If Mom regularly takes photos, she may prefer a wireless photo frame, such as the Kodak W820 (\$219.95), that can stream images stored on her PC or a photo-sharing Web site.

### Portable Entertainment

Busy moms may not have time to watch an entire movie in one sitting, but with a portable DVD player, Mom can watch her favorite movies and TV shows over a lunch break, on the plane, or while relaxing outside. Toshiba's SD-P101 (\$349.99; [www.toshiba.com](http://www.toshiba.com)) offers a battery life of up to five hours and a 10.2-inch widescreen LCD that can swivel 360 degrees. Even better, the SD-P101 includes one A/V input and one output, which allows Mom to display content from a digital camera or camcorder, or she can connect the DVD player to a TV's Component input.

Does Mom like to listen to music around the house or while she's working? With an MP3 player audio system, she can dock her portable music player and listen to her favorite songs headphone-free. One of the more creative-looking MP3 audio systems is Crosley's iJuke (\$199.95; [www.crosleyradio.com](http://www.crosleyradio.com)), which is a

tabletop iPod dock that's designed to mimic the appearance of a 1960s jukebox—complete with authentic neon lighting and percolating bubble tubes. Crosley also includes a remote control to let you play, pause, and skip through playlists from across the room.

## Mobile Tools

Most moms are great multitaskers, and if your mom enjoys talking on her mobile phone, a Bluetooth headset can help make her more efficient by freeing up her hands. The Jawbone Bluetooth headset (\$129.99; [www.us.jawbone.com](http://www.us.jawbone.com)) includes several customized earbud options to ensure a comfortable fit. Jawbone builds in noise-canceling technology to provide clear call quality. For ease of use, it features only two buttons to control all headset functions.

Other popular mobile phone accessories include stylish cases and form-fitted phone skins, travel chargers, car cradles, and additional memory. Note that most newer mobile phones use the microSD format. If mom's mobile phone doubles as her portable music player, look for a 4GB or larger memory card, so she'll have enough storage space for a large playlist.

## Make An Informed Decision

Once you've selected the type of technology Mom will like best, visit your local electronics retailer to check out the available options and colors to find the model that'll best show your gratitude on her special day. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

Kodak P720  
\$99.95  
[www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)

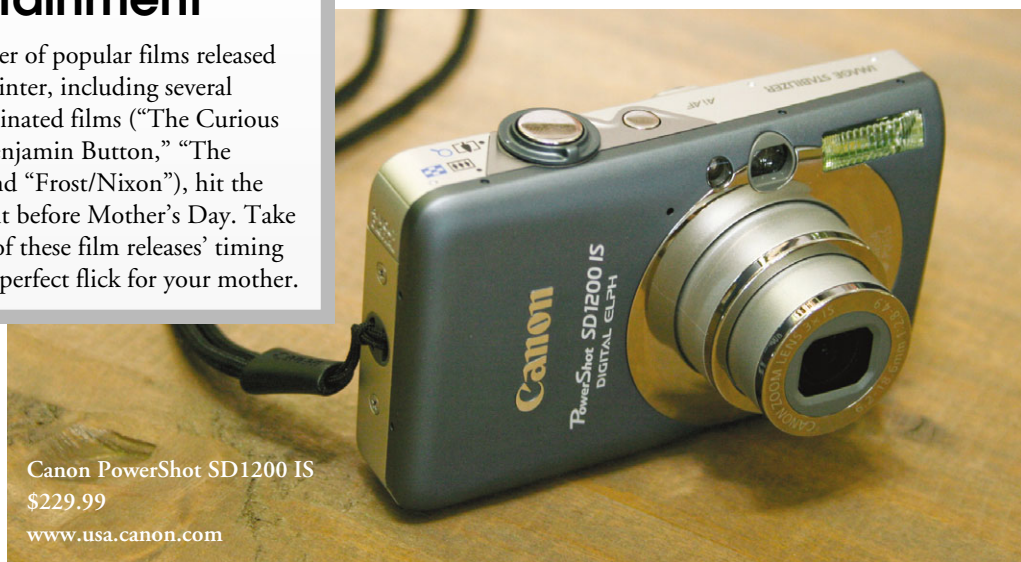


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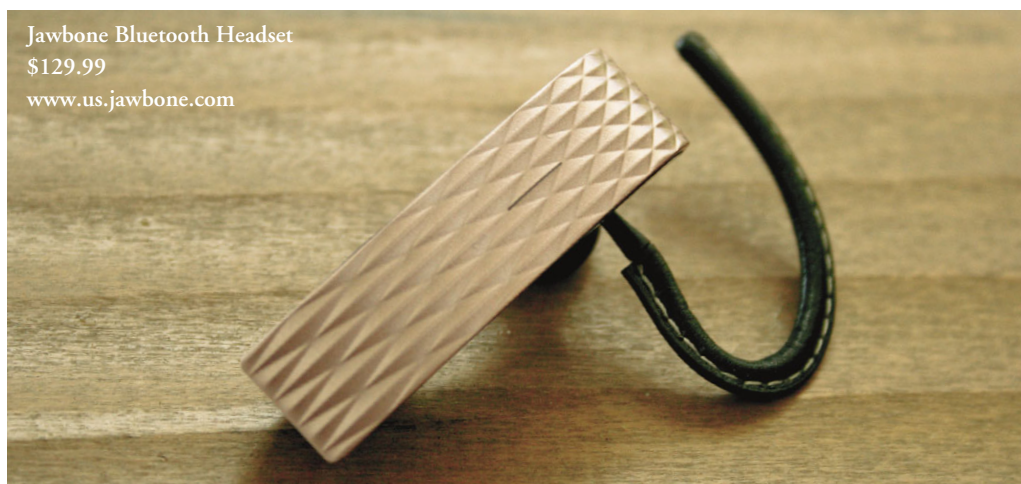
## Don't Forget About The Entertainment

**A** number of popular films released this winter, including several Oscar-nominated films ("The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button," "The Reader," and "Frost/Nixon"), hit the shelves right before Mother's Day. Take advantage of these film releases' timing to find the perfect flick for your mother.

Canon PowerShot SD1200 IS  
\$229.99  
[www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)



Jawbone Bluetooth Headset  
\$129.99  
[www.us.jawbone.com](http://www.us.jawbone.com)





msi

FEATURE

# Gifts For Dad

## Something Special For Every Dad

**H**e taught you how to ride a bike, change your oil, and pitch a baseball. Dads are special people, and now is the time of year to show your appreciation for all the lessons he has taught you throughout the years. Whether the father you're shopping for is a new dad or a grandfather, there are several gifts you can give to show him how much you care.

### The Gift Of High-Definition

When your dad leans back in his old recliner to watch his favorite movies, make sure he is getting the very best in quality. A new HDTV is definitely the way to please Dad but so is a great HDTV complement.

A BD player will let your dad watch his favorite Blu-ray Disc action movies in high-definition video. Not only will your dad get to enjoy the high-quality picture HD presents, but you can be sure it's the last disc player he'll have to buy for quite a while because BD players feature the latest in motion-picture technology. Plus, your dad won't have to toss his old DVDs, because BD players can convert DVDs to HDTV resolutions.

### Capture The Moments

As children and grandchildren hit milestones in life, be sure your dad has what

he needs to capture those memories. A digital camera with automatic scene recognition will analyze the scene and adjust the settings accordingly so he doesn't have to. This will make using his new digital camera easy.

When his daughter is getting ready to take her first step or jump off the high dive during a competition, the Flip Video MinoHD (\$229.99; [www.theflip.com](http://www.theflip.com)) can capture every second. Give the dad in your life this compact HD camcorder, which can record 60 minutes of video. It's small enough to slip in his pocket, so he can take it with him to show others his pride and joy, and onboard video editing lets him create video masterpieces right after the camera stops rolling.

### Even Though He Never Gets Lost . . .

When your dad comes to see your new house for the first time, he might need a little help with directions. A portable or in-car GPS unit that features text-to-speech will let him keep his eyes on the road and stay safe while getting there. And GPS devices with Bluetooth capabilities will let him chat on the phone hands-free, so he can catch up with one of his children while on his way to visit another.

You can also help your dad improve his golf game with a GPS unit. Most golf GPS devices will provide distance information

from any point on the golf course, as well as a digital scorecard and personalized course information.

### Computing On The Go

For the times when Dad is on long business trips, give him a gift that will help him keep in touch with his family. A netbook, such as the MSI Wind (\$329.99; [www.msicomputer.com](http://www.msicomputer.com)) provides a quick way for your dad to connect to the Web in order to gain access to email. And with a built-in Web cam, you'll be able to have a conversation with Dad face-to-face. Netbooks are compact enough to fit in his carry-on bag or his briefcase, so he can also surf the Web while he sits in airports waiting to come home.

Your on-the-go dad can also take videos, music, photos, and other files on the road with a Western Digital My Passport Studio (\$169.99 to \$199.99; [www.westerndigital.com](http://www.westerndigital.com)) portable hard drive. The My Passport Studio portable hard drives come in 320GB, 400GB, and 500GB capacities, and they are small enough to fit in his briefcase. My Passport Studio portable hard drives work with both Macs and PCs, and they ensure that Dad always has a backup version of his files.

### Gaming At His Best

You know your dad is a winner, so help him prove it to all his gaming buddies

FirstGlimpse



with the Alienware Aurora gaming desktop PC (from \$999; [www.alienware.com](http://www.alienware.com)). The Aurora features a quad-core AMD Phenom 9850 Black Edition processor with Hyper-Transport technology to give your dad the power and speed he needs to wipe out the competition. The Aurora can support up to 3TB of storage and also has 4GB of memory for multitasking. Finally, the Aurora includes a Blu-ray Disc drive that will let your dad play movies in 1080p, and the Sound Blaster X-Fi XtremeGamer sound card is engineered to deliver precise HD audio.

If your dad already has his own gaming rig, consider getting him a gaming accessory or two. A wireless gaming mouse, for example, is a versatile, clutter-free addition to your dad's gaming-gear collection, but a mouse with dual-mode wired/wireless functionality gives him the best of both worlds. He'll have free rein to stalk the enemy wirelessly, or he can use the USB cable to play games without needing to pay attention to the device's battery life.

## For Every Dad

Whether the father in your life travels often, stays home and watches movies, or plays computer games, there is a CE device guaranteed to match his lifestyle. Chances are, your dad has improved your life in so many ways, so don't pass up the opportunity to give him something that will enhance his. **FG**

BY TESSA WARNER BRENNEMAN

## Keep Dad's Laptop Safe

**Y**our dad keeps precious information on his laptop, so be sure all his data is safe with Computrace LoJack for Laptops Premium Edition (\$59.99 for one year; [www.lojackforlaptops.com](http://www.lojackforlaptops.com)). If his laptop is lost or stolen, Computrace's software can erase private documents and passwords remotely through its Data Delete Service, and it can also track his laptop and notify police of its location.

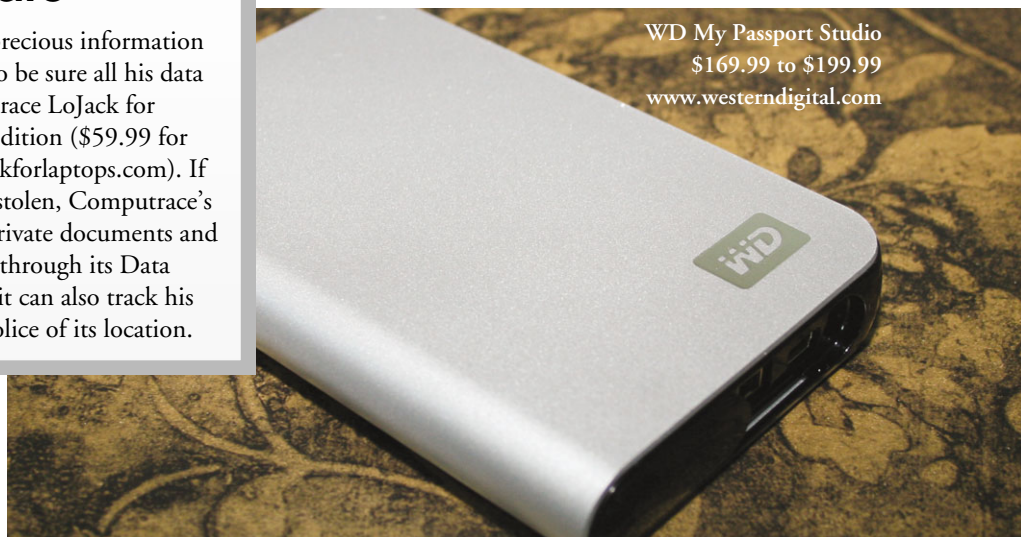


MSI Wind

\$329.99

[www.msicomputer.com](http://www.msicomputer.com)

FEATURE



WD My Passport Studio

\$169.99 to \$199.99

[www.westerndigital.com](http://www.westerndigital.com)



Flip Video MinoHD

\$229.99

[www.theflip.com](http://www.theflip.com)

# Gifts For Grads

## Celebrate With Something Impressive

**G**raduates only want one thing on commencement day: a diploma. However, each grad has something different that lies ahead. High school students are ready to kick off their summer of freedom, college graduates anticipate the next season of life, and doctorates aim to bring more enlightenment to the academic sphere.

No matter what goals these individuals pursue, they will need technological tools along the way, whether they're for work, play, or both. Honor the graduate you know with a gift that best suits his or her next path in life.

### Surround Sound For The Dorms

Even though dorm rooms are limited on space, it doesn't mean your future college student can't enjoy his favorite tunes with audio clarity. A pair of bookshelf speakers featuring high-quality woofers and tweeters will flesh out the highs and lows of any song in any genre.

He will also need a place to store his collection of DVDs, Blu-ray Discs, and CDs. To save on space, he might appreciate a portable disc album or a compact storage case to keep all of his media organized even if the rest of the dorm

room is a mess. However, a college graduate who is moving into his own apartment before he starts his first job might want to consider more substantial media storage options, such as a stylish media tower that matches his other furniture and displays a large collection of multimedia for entertainment purposes.

### For The Record

College students experience so many new moments and milestones that they'll likely need more than a basic camera. For instance, a D-SLR camera would be ideal for any student interested in college photography classes because these fully featured cameras offer a high megapixel count and increased shutter speeds.

A portable photo printer is also the perfect gift for a student who wants a personal photo lab, even while on the go. Some portable photo printers can produce high-resolution prints in under one minute and create multiple photo sizes, as well.

If you know your graduate will be spending a few spring breaks on the slopes in Colorado, why not give her a lightweight, easy-to-pack camcorder to record her good times? For instance, the Canon FS200 Flash Memory Camcorder (\$329.99; [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)) has a compact form factor and weighs less than 1 pound. Because it has no moving

parts, it will provide a fast response time and quiet operability.

### A Grad's Life

After a high school student walks off the stage with a diploma, he's most likely thinking about the three exciting months of summer freedom. An ideal gift for playing his summer soundtrack is a versatile MP3 player. You should have no trouble choosing the right MP3 player with so many available features: large capacities, video support, FM tuner capabilities, color choices, and numerous interface styles. The Slacker G2 Portable Personal Radio (\$199.99; [www.slacker.com](http://www.slacker.com)) includes built-in Wi-Fi, more than 100 Internet radio stations, and both PC and Mac compatibility. He can also upload MP3s to the Slacker G2 via USB cable.

For the undergrad who's about to enter a master's program in the fall, you can count on the fact that she will be spending a lot of time researching and creating projects. Why not give her a printer that will produce high-quality photos and documents? The Kodak ESP 7 All-In-One Printer (\$199.99; [www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com)) can wirelessly print from a PC, USB drive, and PICTBRIDGE-enabled digital cameras. The copier feature will let her reproduce an image or document with one-touch activation. Additionally, the built-in scanner is



capable of scanning multiple pictures and creating separate image files for each photo.

### What Every Grad Really Needs

A necessity for any grad continuing in higher education is a reliable computer, preferably a laptop now that Wi-Fi access is readily available on many campuses. A notebook can serve a particular purpose according to a grad's lifestyle and work requirements. For instance, one student might need a large monitor, such as 15 or 17 inches, in order to edit audio files, videos, and photos. In contrast, another college student may prefer a laptop with an average screen size that's used for social networking, email, and word processing.

Computer software is an alternative gift if your grad already has a quality laptop. Music enthusiasts will love song production programs that make composition easy for novice users. A student who focuses heavily on graphic design studies will be able to use advanced design software. Maybe your high school grad wants to get a head start on college Spanish; if so, he can utilize a Spanish immersion program for learners at all levels.

### Something You Didn't Think Of

No matter what type of graduation gift you purchase, communication is the key to stay connected with other alumni, family members, and colleagues. A grad who's preparing to

travel around the country to visit loved ones could use a hands-free cellular kit such as Scosche's chitCHAT Bluetooth Speakerphone (\$109.99; [www.scosche.com](http://www.scosche.com)). When clipped onto a car visor, this device will keep your graduate's eyes on the road and hands on the wheel as he makes telephone calls via a Bluetooth-enabled cell phone or headset.

### To Each His Own

Graduation day is important to all students, no matter what phase of education they're completing, so keep in mind what your grad would enjoy and use the most as you choose a gift at your local CE retailer. **FC**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

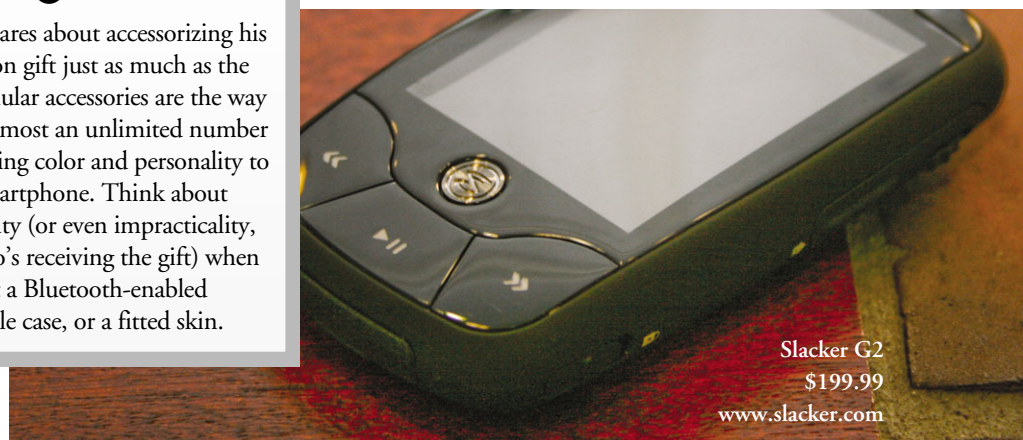


Canon FS200  
\$329.99

[www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)

### A Little Something Extra

If your student cares about accessorizing his or her graduation gift just as much as the gift itself, then cellular accessories are the way to go. There are almost an unlimited number of options for adding color and personality to a cell phone or smartphone. Think about style and practicality (or even impracticality, depending on who's receiving the gift) when you're picking out a Bluetooth-enabled headset, fashionable case, or a fitted skin.



Slacker G2  
\$199.99

[www.slacker.com](http://www.slacker.com)



Scosche chitCHAT  
\$109.99  
[www.scosche.com](http://www.scosche.com)



Olympus STYLUS TOUGH-6000

\$299.99

www.getolympus.com



# Olympus STYLUS TOUGH-6000

## Shockproof, Waterproof, Freezeproof & Lifeproof

DIGITAL IMAGING

**W**hen you think about your camera coming into contact with salt water, chlorine, sand, concrete, snow, and ice, the outcome seems pretty disastrous. Standard point-and-shoot cameras aren't designed to withstand a jump in the pool, fall out of your messenger bag, or drop in the snow. However, none of these scenarios will prevent you from maximizing the features of the Olympus STYLUS TOUGH-6000 (\$299.99; [www.getolympus.com](http://www.getolympus.com)).

This rugged camera is durable enough to survive any type of adventure, whether you're snorkeling through a brood of jellyfish, repelling off a cliff in the Rockies, or sledding down your favorite local hill. Parents will also appreciate this camera for family vacations—they won't have to worry about breaking the camera when their five-year-old wants to snap a photo of Mommy and Daddy in front of Niagara Falls.

Essentially, the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 is ready for action, anytime or any place.

### Riding Out The Waves

Because the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 is waterproof up to 10 feet, you can now

stand up and snap a photo as waves crash over you on the shore of Miami's best beach. This is possible because Olympus uses waterproof seals and gaskets to prevent water from seeping into the camera body. Record your son swimming in the pool for the very first time with the STYLUS TOUGH-6000's movie mode setting. Or, you could snap a few shots while you're kayaking in Canada.

### Roughing It

The sound of a camera hitting pavement is enough to make anyone cringe. Olympus has taken this hazard into consideration by designing the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 with a metal body and shock absorbency. In other words, this camera can handle up to 5-foot falls, bumps, and jolts. This makes the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 an ideal companion for hiking rough trails or filming impressive footage of the terrain you covered on your ATV ride.

### Keep It Cool

Winter conditions can prevent you from capturing memories on your camera when you're having a fantastic time outside—below freezing temperatures and snowfall make outdoor photography difficult. But the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 won't hamper your fun in the cold

because it's winterized for use in temperatures down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit or 10 degrees Celsius. So, while you and your family are skiing down freshly powdered slopes, you won't have to worry about the wind chill taking a toll on your camera. Snow flurries won't affect the STYLUS TOUGH-6000's performance, either.

### Control & Stabilize

The STYLUS TOUGH-6000 includes other innovative features such as tap control and dual image stabilization. Tap control lets you access camera functions such as video and photo playback or flash modes by simply nudging the sides, back, or top of the STYLUS TOUGH-6000. Using this function when your dexterity is limited makes spontaneous photography—such as leaning over a pond bridge to snap photos of some fish—much easier. Additionally, dual image stabilization steadies each shot to counterbalance any camera shake, especially if you're trying to take a picture when you're seated inside an airplane or riding in a vehicle.

There aren't too many cameras that give you as much freedom as the STYLUS TOUGH-6000 does. It's ready to go with you any place as long as you're prepared to experience new adventures with your digital camera. **Fe**

**FirstGlimpse**

# Release Your Inner Creativity

## Create Professional-Looking Prints & Videos With The Right Software



iving a personalized photo or video gift to your mom, dad, or graduate? If you use the built-in editing tool or free editing application included

with your digital camera or camcorder, you may find that the basic editing features don't let you add the creative lighting effects and custom titles that make for a truly unique gift. Fortunately, there are a number of photo- and video-editing programs that will let you create a worthy final product. We'll examine a few key capabilities found in advanced photo- and video-editing software that make it ideal for those wanting professional-quality results.

### RAW Photo Formats

D-SLRs can capture images in an uncompressed RAW file format that many photographers prefer because it offers greater control over the final product. Unlike a JPEG image, you set the light and color levels (with the help of your PC), so you won't be stuck with an overexposed or discolored image. RAW file formats vary by manufacturer, and a quality photo-editing application will support the current RAW formats and provide regular software updates to ensure continued compatibility. ●



### Master Your Movies

If plotless summer blockbusters have taught us anything, it's that audiences like visual effects. High-end video-editing software, such as Pinnacle's Studio Ultimate version 12 (\$129.99; [www.pinnaclesys.com](http://www.pinnaclesys.com)), lets you add sophisticated effects and transitions that help your video tell a story. For example, Studio Ultimate version 12 lets you match colors between clips, add light rays and film styles, and select from more than 100 Look presets. Additionally, you can blend in music and craft animations and title graphics to set a mood for your home video.

Most free video-editing tools don't support HDV (high-definition video) and AVCHD (Advanced Video Codec High-Definition) recording formats. Thus, if you want to maintain the crisp video quality recorded by your HD camcorder, you'll likely need high-end video software. Many quality video-editing programs also provide built-in DVD and BD (Blu-ray Disc) authoring tools, so you don't need another program to burn the video files onto disc.

### More Than Touch-Ups

When you give a photo to a friend, you'll want to remove any flaws in the image and make the subtle fixes that turn a good photo into a great one. Although many free photo-editing applications give you the ability to correct brightness and hue problems, free applications are typically imprecise, and the fixes may cause discoloration or white specks to appear in your photos. Besides more meticulous correction capabilities, high-end photo-editing software also provides makeover tools, such as a blemish fixer, to make the people in your photos look their best.

For example, Corel's Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 (\$99.99; [www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com)) lets you whiten teeth, smooth wrinkles, and remove blemishes in just a few clicks. Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 also lets you remove objects and blend the existing background into the photo—ideal for hiding distracting background content, such as a tree that appears to come out of someone's head. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

# Convergence Comes To D-SLRs

## D-SLR Cameras & HD Video

**I**t used to be that if you wanted to snap D-SLR photos and shoot video, you needed a D-SLR camera and a camcorder. Now, a single D-SLR can handle both, shooting not merely video but also high-definition video.

As we go to press, two available D-SLRs perform this double duty: Nikon's D90 (\$999.95, body only; [www.nikonusa.com](http://www.nikonusa.com)) and Canon's more fully featured EOS 5D Mark II (\$2,699, body only; [www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)), which shoots full 1080p HD and augments its internal microphone with a jack for an external mic.

This doesn't mean, however, that HD camcorders are obsolete. Video-capable D-SLRs operate differently from camcorders, which yields, at least in this first generation, both advantages and limitations.

### First The Downside

Compared to camcorders, D-SLRs won't let you keep shots rolling for very long. This first crop of HD D-SLRs can shoot for only a few minutes at a time because of such technical reasons as maximum file size and the risk of the image sensor overheating.

Also, auto-focus is disabled while shooting video, so you'll have to focus manually.



### Now The Good News

Just as you can change D-SLR lenses for different photographic conditions—say, a portrait lens for an indoor shot and then a wide-angle lens for the great outdoors—you can swap lenses for different video circumstances. A high-def video camera with this capability would run you several thousand dollars.

D-SLR lenses are also better at creating a shallow depth of field (a narrow range of focus, with everything outside it blurred) than HD camcorders. This can give your footage a more cinematic appearance, compared to the flat video look that can result when everything is in equally sharp focus.

Future HD-capable D-SLRs will surely build on these strengths while reducing the limitations. Although high-def D-SLRs may never kick the camcorder to the curb, being able to grab HD video alongside your photos is a great bonus. **FG**

BY BRIAN HODGE

### Live View Technology

**V**ideo on D-SLRs is possible because of a technology called Live View.

Compared to point-and-shoot cameras, traditional D-SLRs had one limitation: They wouldn't let you frame the photo with the back-panel LCD, only with the viewfinder. That's because a hinged mirror sits between a D-SLR's lens and its image sensor. Whatever the lens sees, the mirror reflects it into the viewfinder. When you shoot a photo, the mirror flips up out of the way, the sensor captures the image, and then the mirror drops back into place.

Live View lets you lock the mirror in its up position, so there's an unobstructed path between the lens and sensor. This clears the way for a compatible sensor to operate continuously, capturing video, as well as still images. ●



# Print Size & Megapixels

## Count Your Pixels Before You Print

**P**rinting a digital image is like painting a room—just as you need to know how much paint is required to fully cover the walls, you need to have enough pixels to cover the surface of the paper. If you paint a large living room using only a quart of paint, the walls will look splotchy and the old paint will probably show through. Likewise, if you try to stretch the pixels of a 3MP image to create an 8x10 print, the picture won't look very good—details will be missing, and it very well may show individual pixels (called pixelization). You probably won't want to share a low-quality print created with too few pixels nor would you want to hang it on your wall.

Pixel count isn't the only factor that determines the quality and size of your printed photo results; the printer resolution, known as ppi (pixels per inch), will also affect your photo's clarity and size. Pixels per inch determines how densely pixels are situated in an image. So, the higher a camera's ppi setting, the more detailed an image printout will appear. If you have too few pixels per inch, pixels will stretch to fill the image size you are printing, and this can make your image appear blocky or blurry.

The number of pixels you need per square inch depends on what you plan to do with the photos. For printing purposes, 300ppi is considered professional print quality because

pixelization won't be noticeable from a few inches away. On the other hand, images you view on a computer screen will always appear relatively the same size and quality regardless of an image's ppi. The resolution of a computer monitor can vary from 60 to 100ppi, but photos with at least 72ppi will suffice for emails and blog postings you want friends and family to see.

You can use your photo-editing software to figure out how many pixels per inch your image has. In some programs, this can be found in the same dialog box you use to resize your



image. If the image came straight from your camera, it will probably be preset to 72ppi. You can adjust this setting based on your camera's capabilities and the image size and quality you desire. To figure out what print sizes you can create with a particular camera, consult our "Megapixels To Print Optimization Chart" below. **RG**

### MEGAPIXELS TO PRINT OPTIMIZATION CHART

**T**o achieve the optimum print size for your digital images, you need a camera with enough megapixels to match your printing needs. The list below will give you an idea of what photo results you can expect from cameras with different resolutions.

Camera Resolution megapixels* (approx. pixels)	Maximum Print Size At 240ppi (approx. inches)	Maximum Print Size At 300ppi (approx. inches)
5MP (2,580 x 1,944)	8x10	6x8
6MP (3,008 x 2,000)	8x11	7x9
7MP (3,072 x 2,304)	9x12	7x10
8MP (3,264 x 2,488)	10x13	8x11
9MP (3,488 x 2,616)	11x14	9x12
10MP (3,648 x 2,736)	11x15	9x13
11MP (3,830 x 2,872)	12x16	10x12
12MP (4,000 x 3,000)	13x17	10x13

\*Megapixel = 1 million pixels

# SD vs. HD

## Comparing Digital Camcorders

### SD

(Standard Definition)

- SD camcorders are less expensive than HD camcorders, so you can get a high-quality camera for comparatively very little money. Some SD camcorders are available for less than \$200.
- Because SD camcorders record at a lower resolution than HD camcorders, you can fit much more video on any storage medium. Effectively, that means you can shoot more footage without having to offload the video to make room.
- SD camcorders can connect to PCs via USB or FireWire. This is handy because virtually all PCs have at least one of those two ports, meaning that you can transfer video to your computer with ease.
- There are several different media formats you can choose from for SD camcorders, including MiniDV tapes, DVDs and MiniDVDs, flash, and hard drive storage.

#### Best For

- Aspiring videographers on a budget.
- Anyone who needs to maximize storage on the given storage medium of his or her digital camcorder.
- Those who want to take advantage of the familiar USB or FireWire interfaces to transfer video to their PCs.

### HD

(High Definition)

- HD camcorders record at a high resolution, ensuring that the picture is clearer and sharper than that of an SD camcorder. Some models offer 1080p, which is the highest video resolution possible.
- Although HD camcorders are typically priced higher than SD camcorders, the prices continue to drop. Thus, HD camcorders are increasingly a great deal.
- An HD camcorder's HDMI port will let you connect it directly to your HDTV to play back your creations with a single audio/video cable.
- Thanks to HDMI, you'll experience faster video transfer speeds from your HD camcorder to your computer.
- Though some PCs have HDMI ports, many do not, so it can be slightly problematic to transfer video from the camcorder's HDMI port to a PC. You may need a different graphics card to get the HDMI connection on your PC.
- Because HD camcorders record video at a high resolution, the recorded footage takes up more space than SD footage, so you need a lot of storage capacity.
- HD camcorders are available in every video storage format, including MiniDV tapes, DVDs, flash, and hard drive-based.

#### Best For

- Techies who want the latest and greatest in digital camcorder technology.
- Videographers (amateur or professional) who want to capture memories at a high resolution.
- Those who want to easily and quickly transfer video to their PCs.



FirstGlimpse

# Essential

## THINGS TO KNOW

### EXTERNAL STORAGE

**Q** What's the difference between an internal hard drive and an external hard drive?

**A** As far as the drive itself is concerned, there is no difference, but an internal drive is mounted inside the computer case, while an external one is in a small enclosure that connects to your computer via an external connection.

**Q** How much external storage can I get?

**A** You will commonly find external hard drives in sizes ranging from 250GB to 1TB, but there are also products that contain multiple drives for overall capacity of 1 or 2TB and higher. CDs and DVDs typically have capacities of 700MB and 4.7GB (8.5GB with dual-layer discs), respectively, and memory cards range in capacity from 1 or 2GB to up to 32GB.

**Q** Can I use a USB flash drive or a memory card for external storage?

**A** You can, but it's not advisable. USB flash drives and memory cards are designed for temporary storage (even the large-capacity ones with dozens of gigabytes of space), and their volatility makes them less reliable as a permanent backup storage medium.

**Q** Why should I back up my photos and home movies?

**A** You should always back up all your data in case of a computer crash, theft, or loss, but backing up your photos and video to two additional and separate places, such as a CD and an external hard drive, also enables you to delete files to free up space on your hard drive while maintaining a backup of your data.

**Q** Can I use multiple external storage options for one computer?

**A** Yes, and as a matter of fact, it's wise to have all your data backed up in multiple places, so having one external storage option always connected to your computer and one that you back up to periodically and store in a separate location is ideal.

**Q** What do the different "classes" of memory cards (Class 1, Class 2, etc.) mean?

**A** The higher the class number, the faster the card. For example, a Class 4 card is faster than a Class 1 card. The number in the class refers to the number of Mbps (megabits per second) the card can read and write data.

**Q** Why should I consider adding external storage to my desktop computer or HTPC (home-theater PC)?

**A** Computer hard drives are only so large, and if you build a media library with all your photos and video, you'll need a lot of storage capacity.

**Q** What types of external storage are available for my photos and video?

**A** There are many options, including NAS (network-attached storage), external hard drives, CDs and DVDs, USB flash drives, and memory cards.

**Q** How do I know which type of memory card I should get?

**A** Consult your camera or camcorder's manual to see what type of card it takes.





## DIGITAL IMAGING

## Accessories & Services

**P**rices for digital camcorders and cameras continue to fall as video and picture quality improve, which is especially good news for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade. Pairing

your new camcorder or camera with the right products will bring you better photography results. Here are some must-have accessories you should consider to get the most out of your digital-imaging device. **FG**

### UV FILTER

- Protect digital camcorder and D-SLR lenses from dust, dirt, fingerprints, and scratches
- Get clearer, more detailed videos or photographs in bright conditions

### TRIPOD

- Larger tripods can serve as an easy way to ensure steady video footage
- Pan large areas while recording video in one smooth motion
- With a tripod and a timer, you can get a picture of the entire group without someone needing to man the camera
- Steady your hand for close-up or distance shots to avoid photo blurring

### SPARE BATTERIES/CHARGER

- Be sure you're never caught without the power to capture the perfect moment
- Whether your camera uses proprietary batteries or AAs, keep at least one fully charged spare or set in your camera bag
- An additional battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling

### EXTRA MEDIA

- Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space
- Consider having several smaller media cards instead of one larger card; if something goes wrong with one, you'll still have a backup
- For your digital camcorder, keep more recording media in your bag than you think you'll need, just in case

### ADDITIONAL LENSES/CONVERTER LENSES

- Extra lenses for D-SLRs and converter lenses for digital camcorders can enhance your results by extending your field of view, reducing glare, and more
- Telephoto lenses enable you to zoom in from far away; wide-angle lenses give you the ability to get a full view even if you're close to the subject; and macro lenses will let you achieve up-close, detailed shots of your photo subject

### EXTERNAL FLASH

- Light up your subjects from greater distances
- Offer better control of lighting conditions when shooting by directing the angle of the flash

### REMOTE SWITCH

- Take pictures without having to touch the camera, which can reduce camera shake
- Longer cable lets you snap shots without being tied to the camera
- May enable the user to lock the shutter for longer exposure times

### DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICES

Once you've set your sights on the camera or camcorder you want, consider taking advantage of the digital imaging services offered by your local CE retailer. Not only can you protect your imaging investment, but you can also discover photography skills to make your photos and videos picture perfect.

- D-SLR Or Camcorder Service Plan
- D-SLR Training Course
- Camcorder Training Course

# Digital Imaging Glossary



Are you confused about what the lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital imaging.

**aperture**—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term “f-stop” is used interchangeably with aperture.

**burst mode**—A camera mode that lets you capture several shots consecutively after pressing the shutter only once.

**CCD**—A charge-coupled device is the camera’s image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

**depth of field**—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

**digital zoom**—Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

**f-stop**—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

**ISO**—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200,

400, etc., should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

**LCD**—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject or your photo after you’ve taken it.

**lens**—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the imaging device. In a digital camera, the lens probably has both an optical and digital zoom.

**megapixel**—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) better-quality photos.

**memory card**—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need flash memory cards to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Sticks. In general, memory cards are quite small.

**noise**—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

**optical zoom**—The camera’s mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical



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zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

**resolution**—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

**shutter**—A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera’s shutter speed.

**shutter speed**—The length of time a camera’s shutter is open to let light through the lens to hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter is open for 1/250th of a second.

**viewfinder**—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don’t have a viewfinder and use only the camera’s LCD to frame the shot.

**white balance**—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too.



## D-SLR Camera

# Professional-Quality Images Plus Full HD Video

DIGITAL IMAGING



### Canon EOS Rebel T1i

MSRP: \$899.99

SKU: 9301819

[www.usa.canon.com](http://www.usa.canon.com)

### Quick Overview

The Canon Rebel T1i incorporates many of the still capture features of Canon's pro-level EOS 50D and 5D Mark II models, and it's also capable of capturing HD video. With an HDMI output, simply connect the T1i to your HDTV to view HD footage and photos. Despite the magnitude of this camera's features, operation is easy, and it's offered at a D-SLR entry-level price of \$899.99.

### Perfect For

People looking for a professional-quality, fast-shooting D-SLR for less than \$1,000. The T1i's HD video capabilities are also ideal for those who want a camera/camcorder combo.

### Outstanding Benefits

- **15.1MP CMOS image sensor with Digic 4 Image Processor**—fast processing of 15.1-megapixel images
- **1920 x 1080 video capture resolution**—combined with T1i's HDMI output to deliver HD stills and video to your HDTV
- **3-inch Clear View LCD**—features anti-reflective and scratch-resistant coatings to improve outdoor viewing and protect the screen against damage
- **Live View**—compose photos from the LCD; ideal for taking photos from above your head or at odd angles

### Coollest Feature






The Canon Rebel T1i delivers full HD video capture to deliver a D-SLR that can also serve as an HD camcorder.



# Canon's D-SLR Camera Lineup



Designed to deliver the finest details, most vivid color, and expert features, Canon's lineup of D-SLRs provide the tools necessary for photography enthusiasts, as well as professionals, to capture images the way they intend. No limits on creativity, no frustrating missed shots. Consult our chart to help you find the Canon D-SLR that best suits your needs.

Product Name SKU	Canon EOS Rebel XS 8929699	Canon EOS Rebel XSi 8794691	Canon EOS Rebel T1i 9301819	Canon EOS 50D 9004418	Canon EOS 5D Mark II 9152454
					
MSRP	\$599.99*	\$749.99*	\$899.99*	\$1,299.99*	\$2,699.99* (body only)
Cooler Features	7-point autofocus, 2.5-inch LCD monitor with Live View, auto lighting optimizer	9-point autofocus with two types of autofocus in Live View, spot metering and 3.0-inch LCD with Live View function	Full HD video capture with HDMI output, Live View for stills and video, 14-bit processor for smooth tones	Live View with Face Detection Live, Lens Peripheral Illumination Correction settings to even brightness, and HDMI output	Full frame 21.1 image sensor, full HD video capture with HDMI output, weather-resistant body, 3.0 Clear View LCD with anti-reflective and scratch-resistant coatings
Effective Resolution	10.1MP	12.2MP	15.1MP	15.1MP	21.1MP
Kit Lens	EF-S18/55 IS	EF-S18/55 IS	EF-S18/55 IS	EF28/135 ISU	N/A
Shutter Speed	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/4,000 second	30 to 1/8,000 second	30 to 1/8,000 second
Memory Card Support	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	CF Type I and II	CF Type I and II
Weight (Camera Body Only)	15.9 ounces	16.8 ounces	16.9 ounces	25.7 ounces	28.6 ounces
Maximum ISO	1600	1600	3200; High-speed ISO 6400 and 12800 available	3200; can be expanded to 6400 or 12800	6400; can be expanded to 12800 or 25600
Continuous Shooting Speed	3 shots per second	3.5 shots per second	3.4 shots per second	6.3 shots per second	3.9 shots per second
Battery Type	LP-E5 rechargeable	LP-E5 rechargeable	LP-E5 rechargeable	BP-S11A	CR1616

\* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FUJIFILM

## Digital Camera Anywhere, Anytime, Any Condition

DIGITAL IMAGING



### Fujifilm FinePix Z33WP

MSRP: \$199.95

SKU: 9223761 (blue)

[www.bestbuy.com/fuji](http://www.bestbuy.com/fuji)

### Quick Overview

Best Buy Exclusive Color! The Anywhere, Anytime, Any Condition digital camera. The FinePix Z33WP is waterproof up to 10 feet, and with features like One-Touch Movie recording that can stop and restart, Blog mode, Face Detection, and Picture Stabilization, it's the perfect camera for the active lifestyle.

### Perfect For

The Z33WP is perfect for the active family or individual who lives life to the fullest every day and wants to capture every moment in still pictures or movie clips without worrying about damaging their camera.

### Outstanding Benefits

- Waterproof to 10 feet (3 meters)
- 10 Megapixel Power for sharp, clear images
- Fujinon 3X Optical Zoom and 5.7X Digital Zoom
- 2.7-inch LCD with 230,000 pixel resolution
- SR Auto Automatic Scene Recognition mode detects six scene types
- Picture Stabilization helps eliminate blurry pictures
- Face Detection with Automatic Red Eye Removal
- One-Touch Movie mode captures movies at 30fps with sound







### Coollest Feature

A "life-proof" digital camera lets you capture pictures Anywhere, Anytime, and under Any Condition . . . even under 10 feet of water. Now you can take your camera out to capture pictures in rain, snow, mud, or any other time you haven't used your camera in the past for fear of damaging it.

# JVC Everio Camcorders For Every Lifestyle



Compact and lightweight, the new JVC Everio camcorders make it so easy to capture and share your memories with friends and family. Higher capacity and easier operation with simple and friendly-to-use features such as Laser Touch LCD, LED video light, and Quick restart make the JVC Everio fun to use ... all while getting stunning, detailed images with accurate color, even in low light. Your special memories can be shared with the world or carried with you with one-touch ease. All new Everio camcorders offer three one-touch solutions for storing, sharing, and viewing your videos: One-touch export to iTunes for easy storing, carrying, and viewing your videos on an iPod or iPhone; One-touch upload to YouTube for easy video sharing; and One-touch DVD creation for archiving your memories to disc. Performance, Simplicity, Style ... JVC Everio.

Product Name SKU	Everio S Series GZMS120 9185829	Everio S Series GZMS130 9185892	Everio G Series GZMG630 9185785	Everio G Series GZMG670 9185801	High Definition Everio GZHM200 9186196	High Definition Everio GZHD300 9186141
						
MSRP	\$299.99*	\$349.99*	\$429.99*	\$479.99*	\$579.95*	\$699.99*
Coollest Features	World's first dual card slot camcorder	16GB internal memory and SD/SDHC card slot	View, store, and share with iTunes and YouTube	1920x1080p HDMI upconvert	Face detection, dual SD/SDHC card slot	Face detection, 20X HD optical zoom
HD or SD Video	SD	SD	SD	SD	HD	HD
iTunes/YouTube-Compatible	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recording Media	Memory Card	16GB Flash Drive, Memory Card	60GB Hard Drive, Memory Card	80GB Hard Drive, Memory Card	Memory Card	60GB Hard Drive, Memory Card
LCD Screen Size	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	2.7 inches
Optical and Digital Zoom	35X optical, 40X dynamic, 800X digital	35X optical, 40X dynamic, 800X digital	35X optical, 40X dynamic, 800X digital	35X optical, 40X dynamic, 800X digital	20X optical, 200X digital	20X optical, 200X digital
Recording Speeds	Ultra/Fine/Norm/Eco	Ultra/Fine/Norm/Eco	Ultra/Fine/Norm/Eco	Ultra/Fine/Norm/Eco	UXP/XP/SP/EP	UXP/XP/SP/EP
Memory Card Compatibility	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	microSD/microSDHC	microSD/microSDHC	SD/SDHC	microSD/microSDHC
Digital Still Resolution	640x480; 832x624	640x480; 832x624	640x480; 832x624	640x480; 832x624	Up to 1,920x1,080	Up to 1,920x1,080
Lines of Video Resolution	520	520	520	520	1,080	1,080
Available Colors	Onyx Black, Topaz Blue, Garnet Red	Onyx Black, Topaz Blue	Diamond Silver, Ruby Red, Sapphire Blue	Onyx Black	Onyx Black, Garnet Red, Sapphire Blue	Onyx Black, Ruby Red, Sapphire Blue

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FirstGlimpse







# Olympus Digital Cameras For Any Adventure

**OLYMPUS®**

No matter where and how you're going to be using your digital camera, the Olympus Stylus line will have one that suits your needs. These cameras are designed to be lifeproof and have features that complement your specific lifestyle. Whether you're looking for a camera that fits in with your on-the-go routine, one that can take pictures in any temperature or underwater, or a device with a super-slim design that can zoom in close for the greatest amount of detail, you can Capture it All® with Olympus.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Product Name		Olympus STYLUS-550WP 9224109	Olympus STYLUS-9000 9225359	Olympus STYLUS TOUGH-6000 9224118	Olympus STYLUS TOUGH-8000 9228374
SKU					
What It Means					
MSRP		\$199.99*	\$329.99*	\$299.99*	\$399.99*
Resolution	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints	10 Megapixels	12 Megapixels	10 Megapixels	12 Megapixels
Zoom	Moves your lens closer to your subject	3x Optical; 5x Digital	10x Optical; 5x Digital	3.6x Optical; 5x Digital	3.6x Optical; 5x Digital
Waterproof	Waterproof seals and gaskets keep water out	Down to 10 feet/3m	No	Down to 10 feet/3m	Down to 33 feet/10m
Shockproof	Durable metal body with a shock-absorbing technology	No	No	Up to 5 feet/1.5m	Up to 6.6 feet/2m
Freezeproof	Winterized to perform at below-freezing temps	No	No	Down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit	Down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit
Crushproof	Rugged body and reinforced LCD	No	No	No	Under up to 220 pounds of pressure
Tap Control	Operate by tapping the top, back, and sides of the camera	No	No	Included	Included
Display	LCD on back of camera	2.5-inch high-resolution LCD	2.7-inch HyperCrystal™ III LCD with Backlight Boost	2.7-inch HyperCrystal™ III LCD with Backlight Boost	2.7-inch HyperCrystal™ III LCD with Backlight Boost
Intelligent Auto	Automatically identifies the scene and adjusts the settings	Included	Included	No	No
Dual Image Stabilization	Helps to capture crisp, clear images even if the subject is moving	Included	Included	Included	Included
Memory	Options for storing your pictures	xD-Picture Card™, microSD	45MB Internal, xD-Picture Card™, microSD	42MB Internal, xD-Picture Card™, microSD	45MB Internal, xD-Picture Card™, microSD
Power Source	Options for providing power to your camera	Li-Ion rechargeable battery, AC adapter	Li-Ion rechargeable battery, AC adapter	Li-Ion rechargeable Battery, AC adapter	Li-Ion rechargeable battery, AC adapter







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**FirstGlimpse**

# Which SanDisk Memory Card Is Right For You?

## SanDisk®

The line of memory cards available from SanDisk offers storage solutions for a wide array of devices in a number of different capacities. Whether you want a smaller card to store your digicam snapshots or a large-capacity card for a massive amount of professional RAW images, SanDisk has a card option that will fit your needs.

	SDHC			Compact Flash		Specialized Cards
Product Name	SanDisk Standard SDHC 8GB	SanDisk Ultra II SDHC 16GB	SanDisk Extreme III SDHC 16GB	SanDisk Extreme III CompactFlash 16GB	SanDisk Extreme IV CompactFlash 16GB	SanDisk Standard Memory Stick PRO Duo 8GB
SKU	9138514	9142171	9141877	8774383	9185357	9016851
						
MSRP	\$38.99*	\$84.99*	\$168.99*	\$140.99*	\$281.99*	\$56.99*
Speed	N/A	15MBps	30MBps	30MBps	45MBps	N/A
How Many Photos (At 10MP)**	228 TIFFs; 2,288 JPEGs	457 TIFFs; 4,577 JPEGs	457 TIFFs; 4,577 JPEGs; 1,450 RAWs	457 TIFFs; 4,577 JPEGs; 1,450 RAWs	457 TIFFs; 4,577 JPEGs; 1,450 RAWs	228 TIFFs; 2,288 JPEGs
Perfect For	The average shutterbug who needs a reliable, long-term memory card with plenty of storage for a point-and-shoot camera	Those who need a rugged memory card with high-speed transfer to a PC	Those who need superior performance and strong security features for a prosumer camera or D-SLR	Those who need quick capture of high-res images and fast transfer of data to a PC	Maximum performance for photographers using D-SLRs	Getting the most out of your Sony camera

\* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. \*\*Uncompressed TIFF (24 bits per pixel); Compressed JPEG (90% quality) images per Card. TIFF images has 24-bit color depth, one of 16,777,216 colors per pixel. JPEG compression with 1:20 ratio of RAW image. Approximation: Actual number of pictures may vary based on camera, resolution and compression. Testing and compatibility performed by SanDisk. 1 megabyte (MB) = 1 million bytes. Approximations based on CompactFlash Card. Actual numbers of image will vary by camera, RAW image file size, and card format \*1 gigabyte (GB) = 1 billion bytes. Some capacity not available for data storage.

## Why Use A Faster, Higher-Capacity Card?

- Having a bigger card means you have more storage capacity for photos, music, and movies.
- With a higher-capacity card, you can store more content on the go without worrying about running out of room before you can offload the files.
- Having a faster card means you'll be able to transfer files to your computer faster.
- A card with a fast read/write speed means the delay between shots is shorter.



Certain card sizes are suited for different devices. For example, for a standard point-and-shoot camera, consider an 8GB card.



Serious photographers shooting with a D-SLR will want a fast card with decent storage.



For those shooting HD footage on a camcorder, a high-capacity and high-speed card is a must-have.

FirstGlimpse

# Give The Gift Of Effortless Memory Sharing

## Eye-Fi Share Video Card



Holidays and special events are all about sharing in a joy-filled time—especially graduation day and the days we dedicate to mothers and fathers. But these occasions are also about watching nostalgic videos or capturing images of friends and family. We want these times to be characterized by laughter and entertainment without having to think about the time it will take to upload video and photos to a PC.

The Eye-Fi Share Video memory card (\$79.99; [www.eye.fi](http://www.eye.fi)) will effortlessly transfer your videos and photos to a PC for you. On top of that, it's an SDHC memory card that's ideal for everyone you're buying gifts for this season: new grads, moms, and dads.

### A Graduate's Life

The most exciting part of a graduate's years in academia is celebrating with close friends. Any proud uncle would want his niece to remember the excitement of her graduation party; an Eye-Fi Share Video card is ideal for filming and saving the emotional moments of this occasion.

Your graduating niece will be able to record video of the family dinner, take her digital camera on her graduation cruise, and enjoy the gift of quick and easy wireless transfers. Then she can upload pictures and videos to her laptop and media sites when she returns from a

summer trip or campus tour.

### For A Fully Scheduled Mom

You know your mom likes to take her digital camera with her everywhere she goes. She'll record video of your younger siblings performing at their school recital or snap photos of a well-manicured garden she saw down the street.

However, she may not have time to upload this media manually. The Eye-Fi Share Video makes it much easier for her to transfer her photos to her PC because she can simply set her camera on the coffee table and turn it on. The Share Video card will instantly upload media across the room so all of her friends and family can stay connected to her life.

### Dad's Day Out

Your dad received a new waterproof digital camera from your brother for his

birthday, and he's learned how to take a lot of impressive pictures while fishing at his favorite lake. Still, you know he may not want to waste time learning how to upload these images to a notebook. Now that Father's Day is quickly approaching, you know exactly what he'll want: an Eye-Fi Share Video memory card. With 4GB of capacity, he can take plenty of photos during his day while he's on the water with his friends, and he'll never have to think about connecting his camera to his PC while he hassles with photo transfer steps.

### Hands-Free Memory Card

Regardless of the recipient, the Eye-Fi Share Video card simplifies our digital lives. It's sure to be a unique gift idea for the people you care about the most. **FC**

Eye-Fi Share  
Video card  
\$79.99  
[www.eye.fi](http://www.eye.fi)








# Eye-Fi's Digital Imaging Wireless Cards



Eye-Fi offers three different wireless memory card choices. To find the Eye-Fi card that fits your needs, here's a side-by-side comparison of your options.

Product Name SKU	Share 8853886	Share Video 9251418	Explore Video 9251418
			
MSRP	\$59.99*	\$79.99*	\$99.99*
Card capacity and type	2GB SD	4GB SDHC	4GB SDHC
Capabilities	Transfer JPG photo files from your camera	Transfer JPG photo and video files from your camera	Transfer JPG photo and video files from your camera at or away from home; also includes automatic geotagging
Send files from your camera to	Your home computer and favorite online photo-sharing Web sites	Your home computer and favorite online photo- and video-sharing Web sites	Your home computer and favorite online photo- and video-sharing Web sites
One-year unlimited uploads from Wayport hotspots	No	No	Yes
Wireless range	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors	45 feet indoors, 90 feet outdoors
Wi-Fi security	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK	Static WEP 64/128, WPA-PSK, and WPA2-PSK
Supported OSes	Windows XP/Vista and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)	Windows XP/Vista and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)	Windows XP/Vista and Mac OSes (versions 10.4 and 10.5)

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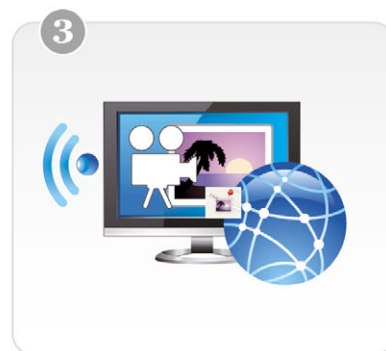
DIGITAL IMAGING



Insert Eye-Fi card into camera and take photos and video



Wirelessly and effortlessly upload photos and videos from home or many hotspots



Save and share all your geotagged digital memories

# Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

		<b>Resolution; Optical zoom</b>	<b>Shutter speed</b>	<b>Memory card</b>	<b>LCD size</b>	<b>Battery life</b>	<b>ISO</b>	<b>Movie mode</b>
	<b>What It Means</b>	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap action photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the display on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you record short video clips on your digital camera
	<b>Sony Cyber-shot DSC-S950</b> MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9232564	10.1MP; 4X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	Memory Stick Duo/Memory Stick PRO Duo	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200	Yes
	<b>Kodak EasyShare M893 IS</b> MSRP: \$149.95* SKU 9076938	8.1MP; 3X	4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 90, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Fujifilm Z33WP</b> MSRP: \$199.95* SKU 9223761	10MP; 3X	1/4 to 1/1,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Samsung TL100</b> MSRP: \$229* SKU 9218713	12.2MP; 3X	N/A	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Canon PowerShot SD780 IS</b> MSRP: \$279.99* SKU 9231921	12.1MP; 3X	1/5 to 1/1,500 second	SD/SDHC/MMC/MMC Plus	2.5 inches	210 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Olympus Stylus Tough-6000</b> MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9224118	10MP; 3.6X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card/microSD	2.7 inches	230 shots	Auto; Manual: 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Canon SD960 IS Digital ELPH</b> MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9224092	12MP; 4X	1/5 to 1/1,600 second	SD/SDHC/MMC/MMC Plus/HC MMC Plus	2.8 inches	200 shots	Auto; Manual: 80, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes
	<b>Olympus Stylus Tough-8000</b> MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9228374	12MP; 3.6X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	xD-Picture Card/microSD	2.7 inches	240 shots	Auto; Manual: 64, 100, 200, 400, 800, 1600	Yes

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

## Which D-SLR Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs from select D-SLR cameras.

		Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
What It Means		Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measure of display on back of camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low-light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamut of long exposures to frozen action
	<b>Sony DSLR-A300K</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8942512	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 3200	DT 18-70mm f/3.5-5.6 standard zoom lens	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
	<b>Casio Exilim EX-FH20</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9051063	9.1MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	N/A (fixed lens equivalent to 26-520mm f/2.8-4.5)	40fps	1 to 1/2,000 second
	<b>Olympus Evolt E-520</b> MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 8928958	10MP	2.7 inches	100 to 1600	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6 Zuiko lens	2.5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/4,000 second
	<b>Canon EOS Rebel XSi</b> MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 8794691	12.2MP	3 inches	100 to 1600	EF-S 18-55mm f/3.6-5.6 IS lens	3.5fps up to 53 shots	30 to 1/4,000 second
	<b>Canon Rebel T1i</b> MSRP: \$899.99* SKU N/A	15.1MP	3 inches	100 to 3200	EF-S 18-55mm IS	3.4fps	30 to 1/4000 seconds
	<b>Pentax K200D</b> MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9217297	10.2MP	2.7 inches	100 to 1600	18-55mm lens	N/A	30 to 1/4,000 second
	<b>Nikon D90</b> MSRP: \$1,299.95* SKU 8975184	12.3MP	3 inches	200 to 3200	AF-S DX Nikkor 18-105mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR lens	4.5fps	30 to 1/4,000 second
	<b>Olympus E-3</b> MSRP: \$1,699* SKU 8682776	10.1MP	2.5 inches	100 to 3200	N/A (body only)	5fps to card capacity	60 to 1/8,000 second









See p. 38

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



## Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

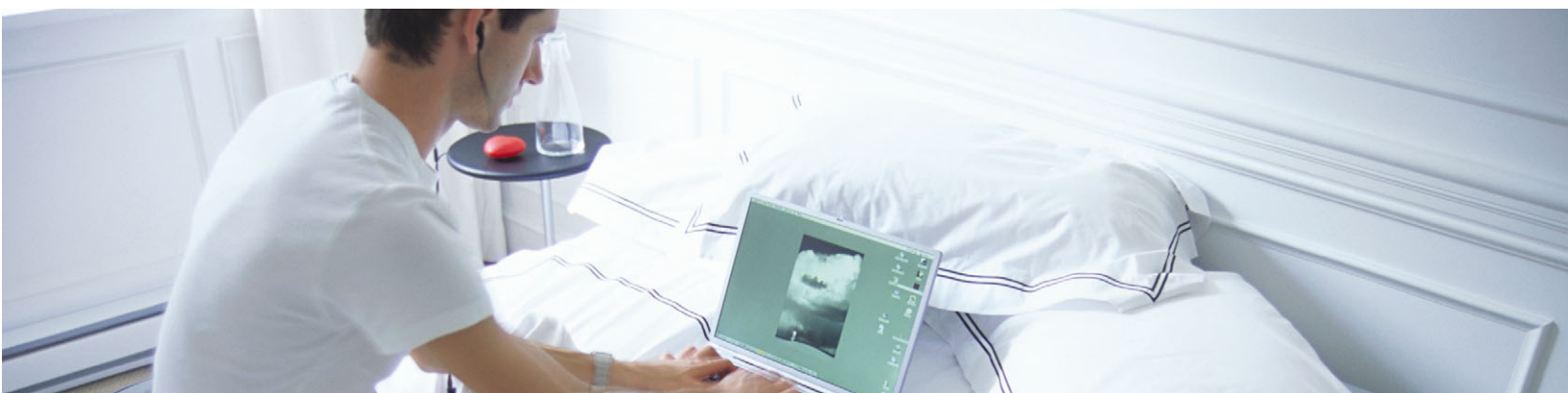
Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fit your style.

		LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
What It Means		Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular camcorder can utilize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the number, the greater the detail
Flash Drive	 <b>Samsung SC-MX20</b> MSRP: \$299* SKU 8907365	2.7 inches	34X; 1,200X	N/A	SD/SDHC	N/A	N/A
	 <b>JVC GZ-MS120B</b> MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 9185829	2.7 inches	35X; 800X	N/A	SD/SDHC	N/A	N/A
	 <b>Canon FS200</b> MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9239549	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	N/A	SDHC	N/A	480
High-Definition Hard Drive	 <b>JVC GZ-HD300BU</b> MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 9186141	2.7 inches	20X; 200X	UXP/XP/SP/EP	microSD/SDHC	N/A	1080
	 <b>Sony HDR-XR100</b> MSRP: \$749.99* SKU 9178739	2.7 inches	10X; 120X	FG/HQ/SP/LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	4MP	1080
	 <b>Panasonic HDC-HS250K</b> MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 9206995	2.7 inches	12X; 700X	HA/HG/HX/HE	SD/SDHC	10.6MP	1080
	 <b>Canon VIXIA HG21</b> MSRP: \$1,299* SKU 8916916	2.7 inches	12X; 200X	LP/SP/XP+/FXP/MXP	SDHC	2.76MP	530
	 <b>Sony HDR-XR500V</b> MSRP: \$1,299* SKU 9178418	3.2 inches	12X; 150X	FH/HQ/SP/LP	Memory Stick PRO Duo	12MP	N/A

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

# Music On Your PC

## Taking Your Tunes To The Next Level



**I**n this century, you can enjoy your favorite music practically anywhere. Furthermore, the sheer number of songs you can listen to, download, and purchase is increasing rapidly.

Your PC can serve as a headquarters for storing most of your music, but there are so many ways to upload and offload music, why stop with the PC itself?

Take a few moments to peruse the types of products we've outlined below. Once you become more familiar with the numerous music-friendly accessories and services that are available, you will realize that the audio delights can extend above and beyond what you may have previously assumed.

### Computer Speakers

If you're still using an old set of computer speakers, now might be a good time to purchase a set that will match the quality of your music collection. For instance, you can find a PC-based stereo with two speakers and a subwoofer to flesh out the sound of the latest hip-hop song. Maybe you'd rather opt for a

mobile sound system with portable USB speakers, so you can plug them into any PC. Style is always a factor—look for the best design, or one that will suit your aesthetic preferences.

### Hard Drives

Sure, you've probably got room for music on your PC's internal hard drive, but what happens when you want to quickly transfer it to your laptop or store backup copies? There are a few options you'll want to keep in mind. For instance, a basic external hard drive (many come standard at 500GB) will provide enough storage space to not only back up all of your MP3s, music videos, and compilations, but by using an external hard drive, you can also move your entire collection to a second PC. USB flash drives, which are typically smaller than a pen, are even more convenient if you simply want to transfer a few music files to the collection currently stored on your PC.

### Media Extenders

If your lifestyle revolves around your Media Center PC, you could take

advantage of a media extender. Many extenders let you stream music, as well as high-def video and photos, from your PC to your home-theater center. Essentially, a media extender lets you access your complete media library stored on your PC on a compatible TV.

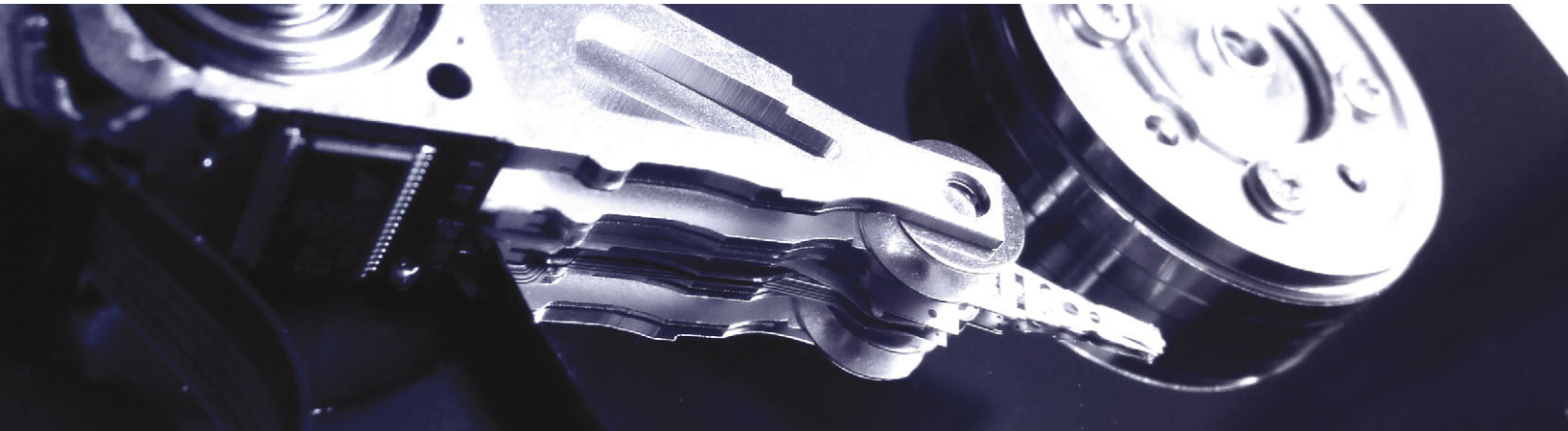
### Music Downloads & Services

One of the most convenient ways to purchase and listen to millions of songs is to download them directly from the Internet. There are multiple online music sources that provide almost any song you could think of—all you have to do is click to buy. Similarly, Slacker Personal Radio Plus (\$3.99 per month; [www.slacker.com](http://www.slacker.com)) is designed to provide unlimited song enjoyment by eliminating skips, advertisements, and song-request limitations on your PC. You can choose up to 40 Slacker stations, manage them on your PC, and then save and send them to the Slacker G2 8GB Portable Radio Player (\$249.99). **FG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

# Restore Lost Files

## Tools To Revive Your Hard Drive



**E**ventually, we all experience some type of data loss. Whether you accidentally delete the one and only video of your daughter's high school graduation or your hard drive suddenly crashes and takes your whole digital life with it, losing files can seem catastrophic. But with dedicated backup and recovery software, you can restore the files you thought were gone forever.

Backup and recovery software helps you create a backup of the files on your computer so that when your hard drive takes a blow, you don't lose your data. If you use backup and recovery software to create a copy of your hard drive before data loss occurs, you can easily recover your data if it is lost, which can save the day in many situations. For example, your computer might become infected with a virus that corrupts the pictures on your hard drive, making them impossible to open. But because you made a copy of your hard drive, you can quickly and easily restore the pictures you lost.

### The Benefits

You may think that your computer already has the necessary tools to recover your lost files, but backup and recovery software offers several benefits that your operating system doesn't. For example, most backup and recovery software features an intuitive, easy-to-use interface that takes little time to learn, so you can restore files quickly while you go about other computer tasks, such as listening to your music collection or checking your online bank account while your computer performs the backup.

Backing up your data may seem like an extensive task, but with the various options that backup and recovery software can provide, safeguarding your files is a one-click event. Simply configure the software to back up files on a date and time of your choosing, and the software will automatically duplicate your pictures, videos, emails, financial documents, and other files. You can even specify which files or folders are copied or configure your backup software to save only the files that have recently changed. Narrowing

down the number of files you want to back up can not only save hard drive space but also lessens the amount of time each backup takes.

Most backup and recovery software lets you save copies of your hard drive in a compressed file format that doesn't take up as much space on your storage device, so you can lower the risk of data loss by creating duplicate backups and saving them to a USB flash drive or network drive.

### Reunite With Your Files

Once your files are saved in an alternate location, such as an external hard drive or USB flash drive, recovering lost or corrupted files only takes a few simple steps. Use your software's search function to locate the photos from your family's summer vacation by searching for the file name or type and restore them with a click of a button. With backup and recovery software, you can have peace of mind knowing that even when your files are lost, they're not gone forever. **FG**

BY KRIS GLASER



# The Lowdown On 802.11n

## The Latest Generation Of Wireless

**W**hile shopping for wireless networking equipment, such as a router or a network adapter, you'll find many wireless devices that are "draft 802.11n compliant." 802.11n is the most recent wireless standard, promising greater speed and range than current 802.11a/b/g standards, but the IEEE has yet to finalize the 802.11n specifications.

Products labeled as "Draft N" can send and receive data near 802.11n speeds, but it's possible that the devices won't be compatible with the final 802.11n standard. We'll indicate what Draft N currently offers and what kind of compatibility you can expect, and we'll show you what to look for when buying 802.11n products.

Currently, 802.11a and 802.11g standards offer a transfer rate of up to

54Mbps, which is fine if you want to migrate data between your network devices. But if you try to stream media from room to room, 802.11a or 802.11g products may not offer enough bandwidth, resulting in choppy sound or video.

Generally, Draft N devices feature a peak data rate of 300Mbps, which is comparable to the rate you can send and receive data over a wired connection, making it ideal for streaming music, photos, and standard- or high-definition video. Additionally, many Draft N routers feature MIMO (Multiple In/Multiple Out) technology to improve signal range through the use of multiple antennas, resulting in fewer poor or dead signal areas in your home.

Draft N products are based on the most current IEEE 802.11n specifications, and most experts don't expect the final 802.11n standard to be much different from Draft N, so it's likely—but not guaranteed—that Draft N devices will use technology that's firmware upgradeable (a downloadable update from the manufacturer) to the final 802.11n standard.

However, you may have to wait awhile for 802.11n to be finalized; according to the latest IEEE 802.11 Project Timeline, final approval isn't slated until November of this year.

### Bands & Speeds

**8**02.11a uses the 5GHz frequency band (less interference but shorter range), while 802.11b and 802.11g use the 2.4GHz band (more interference but longer range). 802.11n products may be able to use both the 2.4GHz and 5GHz band.

Wi-Fi Standard	Data Transfer Rate
802.11a	54Mbps
802.11b	11Mbps
802.11g	54Mbps
802.11n (Draft N)	300Mbps



COMPUTERS

Remember, when shopping for a Draft N router or network adapter, you will want to make certain it's backward-compatible, meaning it'll work with devices that support the older 802.11 standards, or you may not be able to send or receive data from older wireless devices.

If you're concerned about compatibility, look for Draft N products with a "Wi-Fi CERTIFIED" logo, which means the equipment has been tested by the Wi-Fi Alliance to work with other certified devices. **FG**

BY NATHAN LAKE

# Graphically Speaking

## What To Look For When Purchasing A Video Card

A

computer gamer must have one to play titles at the highest settings; a video editor needs one to quickly render effects; and a media-

center PC owner wants one to play HD content from his PC onto his home theater. A video card is just the trick for anyone who wants to improve her PC's ability to process high-end graphics and display content at high resolutions. To help you pick a video card that suits your upgrade needs, we'll explain the specifications you should look for.

### It's A PCI-E World

The technology surrounding graphics cards changes fast, but one thing that hasn't changed recently is the popularity of the PCI-E (Peripheral Component

Interconnect Express) x16 interface, which is the connector type found on nearly all graphics cards manufactured within the past two years. If you've got a computer that requires an older AGP- or PCI-based graphics card, you may want to upgrade your PC.

### Video Memory

Similar to your computer, a graphics card comes with its own memory, so it can store video data and effectively render images at millions of pixels per second. The more memory the video card offers, the higher the video resolution your PC can handle. That being said, if you don't play video games at the highest settings or render video at HD quality, a graphics card with 512MB (or less) of video memory will be sufficient. Graphics cards also feature an internal processor. Look for a card with a core clock with better than 500MHz clock speed for best results.

### Teamwork

If your computer supports Nvidia's SLI or ATI's CrossFireX, which allow you to use two (or more) identical Nvidia- or ATI-based graphics cards as one video-crunching device, you can install two cards and further improve the graphics performance on your PC. Additionally, some video cards feature two GPUs (graphics processor units)—think of it



as a dual-core processor for video—to deliver dual GPU performance from a single video card. The most recently released graphics cards are also designed to perform HD video decoding, taking some calculation duties away from the processor. If you want the most realistic color and video quality, look for a graphics card that supports HD video playback.

### Video Output

Nearly all current graphics cards offer two dual-link DVI (Digital Visual Interface) outputs, which let you hook up two monitors and span your Windows Desktop across both screens. The digital DVI output is superior to the analog, VGA (video graphics array) interface found on older computers and monitors.

If you're looking to quickly hook up your PC to an HDTV, you should look for a graphics card with an HDMI output, which provides the DVI's all-digital, uncompressed video quality, as well as the ability to carry digital audio. High-end graphics cards also support HD resolutions, so your PC will deliver the same quality as your other HD devices. **FC**

BY NATHAN LAKE

## Integrated vs. Dedicated

Some desktop computers may not have a graphics card at all. Instead, the computer's motherboard has a chip that performs the video processing. The biggest downside to integrated graphics is that the video chip shares your computer's memory, otherwise known as RAM, which degrades the PC's overall and video processing performance. ●

FirstGlimpse

# Macs, & You

## Get Your Mac Serviced By The Pros



**S**ure, you know that Geek Squad offers help, support, and tutorials for PCs, but you may not realize that Mac users can benefit from Geek Squad in all the same ways.

Whether you have a problem with your Mac or just want a little extra help getting acquainted with your sleek new machine, you can count on Geek Squad, which offer a host of services to meet all of your Mac-related needs. The Agents are authorized to repair all Apple products, so your Mac computer will be in knowledgeable hands.

### Optimize & Personalize Your Mac

If you want to ensure your Mac is optimized for the best performance and personalized to your tastes, you can call on Geek Squad. They will make sure your operating system, applications, and security features are all up-to-date; set up your user account; and customize up to three widgets.

If you want to take it a step further, Geek Squad will even upgrade your

Mac's memory for you to provide a performance boost to your machine.

### 1-Hour Apple Training

If you're looking for a beneficial way to spend an hour, consider scheduling a 1-hour Apple training session with a Geek Squad Agent in the comfort of your own home. You'll get tutorials on basic computer skills and using software, photos, video, and music, all on your own Mac.

### Getting Set

If you're switching from a PC to a Mac, Geek Squad can make a house call and transfer up to 9.4GB of files between the two computers, for you. They'll also make sure that Internet access on your new Mac is configured properly.

Geek Squad can get you going with your basic computing needs. They'll install any piece of software and all its latest updates to ensure that you'll have full functionality when you get home.

And, while he's setting up your Mac for Internet access during your house call, you can have a Geek Squad Agent set up and configure your wireless network

for two devices, such as computers, routers, files, printers, Broadband/ISP, and modems.

### Set It Up

To schedule a Mac service, you can drop by your local Best Buy store or call 1 800 GEEK SQUAD (1-800-433-5778). Or, visit [www.geeksquad.com](http://www.geeksquad.com) and ask *them* to call *you*. **FG**

BY SETH COLANER

## Pricing Breakdown

**G**eek Squad offers a range of services to keep your Mac in tip-top shape.

- Mac Optimization: \$39.99 (In-Home and In-Store)
- 1-Hour Apple Training: \$199.99 (In-Home)
- Computer Setup & Data Transfer: \$159.99 (In-Home)
- Advanced Wireless Networking: \$169.99 (In-Home)
- Memory Install: \$39.99
- Software Install: \$29.99





# Get Connected

## Let Geek Squad Set Up & Configure Your Home Network

COMPUTERS

W

hat's more convenient than setting up a wireless home network to connect all your household computers, printers, and other network-ready devices? Having a professional do it for you while you kick back and relax. Geek Squad's Networking Services are primed and ready to make a house call.

### Standard Wireless

With the Standard Wireless service, Agents will network one computer, encrypt and secure your wireless router, and configure your high-speed Internet connection for sharing. This is ideal for those who have one computer or little knowledge about creating a home network. If you only need help with the initial setup, and you plan on adding other computers and devices later on your



own, the Standard Wireless service is a good fit.

### Advanced Wireless

For customers who step up to the Advanced Wireless service, they get everything included with the Standard Wireless service and then some. In addition to networking up to two computers, Geek Squad will set up your network-ready printer so that you can print to it from anywhere in the house or office. Plus, they will set up file-sharing capabilities for your network computers so you can access files between multiple machines.

### Premium Wireless

With the Premium Wireless service, Geek Squad will configure up to eight devices to connect to your network. This includes computers, printers, modems, routers, gaming consoles, DVRs, and more. They'll even set up

your ISP and VoIP for you. With a single visit from Geek Squad Agents, you can turn your home or office into a network-connected wonderland.

### Get Going

To schedule a networking service, drop by your local Best Buy store, call 1 800 GEEK SQUAD (1-800-433-5778), or visit the Geek Squad Web site ([www.geek-squad.com](http://www.geek-squad.com)). An Agent will plan a service visit that's convenient for your schedule and discuss your wireless network service options to determine how you will enlist Geek Squad's assistance. **FG**

## Pricing Breakdown

Geek Squad offers a range of services to configure your wireless network to suit your needs.

- Standard Wireless: \$119.99
- Advanced Wireless: \$169.99
- Premium Wireless: \$349.99

FirstGlimpse

# Send In The Geeks!

## Say Goodbye To Slow Computers

### Geek Squad PC Optimization, Explained

Whether your computer is fresh out of the box or has been used for a long time, there's a good chance it isn't running at peak performance. In order to protect your privacy and avoid PC slowdowns, everything from needless software to malware, such as viruses and spyware, needs to be cleaned out on a regular basis. However, tracking these nuisances down and knowing what you should keep vs. what you should delete can quickly become a nightmare.

Enter Geek Squad. Whether you opt for its in-home, in-store, or online service, Geek Squad Agents can optimize your PC so it boots faster, runs better, and suffers from fewer errors and crashes. Here's an overview of the basic PC adjustments Geek Squad can perform and why they are so vital.

### Remove Unnecessary Startup Programs

If programs are flagged to open and run in the background as soon as Windows loads, they lengthen boot times and slow down your system's overall performance. Windows does include tools to help you remove startup items, but there are several caveats. These simple utilities don't necessarily show you everything that loads when your computer starts up, and they don't provide enough information to let you know which programs are necessary and which can safely be deleted. With the assistance of Geek Squad Agents, your PC's needless startup

programs will be identified and then safely removed.

### Fight Malware

Nothing drags down performance like malware. Viruses can take over your computer to send unsolicited emails or destroy your PC's data, and spyware monitors your actions, leading to identity theft and other security breaches. One of the most important components to some of Geek Squad's security services is antivirus and antispyware installation and configuration that prevents existing and new malware from infecting your computer.

### Take Out The Trash

As you use your computer, it creates loads of temporary files that eat up hard drive space and serve no lasting purpose. As with startup programs, it's difficult to tell which files are safe to delete and which are needed, so let a Geek Squad Agent take the guesswork out of this tune-up task.

### Keep It Updated

New security holes for Windows and other software crop up regularly, and new antivirus and anti-malware definitions are released nearly every day. It is imperative to keep your OS and anti-malware software up-to-date. Many Geek Squad optimization services can patch your software programs with new updates so that you can keep your data and identity safe with peace of mind. **FG**

BY TRACY BAKER

### Which Computer Service Is Right For You?

Geek Squad offers a variety of PC packages that include optimization services. Here's a breakdown of some of them:

#### Standard Security & Performance

\$229.99 (in-home)

\$129.99 (in-store)

**What's included:** Antivirus and antispyware software is installed, and all performance tweaks discussed in this article are performed.

#### Computer Optimization

\$129.99 (in-home)

\$39.99 (in-store)

**What's included:** Temp file cleaning, startup program removal, and software updates.

#### Standard Gamer's Optimization

\$69.99 (in-store only)

**What's included:** Install one program, temp file cleaning, startup program removal, software updates, and optimize requested game settings.

#### Computer Checkup

\$99.99 (in-store only)

**What's included:** Troubleshoot problems, startup program removal, software updates, and OS critical updates.



# Essential

## THINGS TO KNOW

### KVMS & CONNECTION HUBS

#### Q What is a connection hub?

A Connection hubs enable you to plug several cables or peripherals into your computer using a single, centralized box, otherwise known as a hub. The hub connects peripherals to the computer and can be placed in an easy-to-access location.

#### Q What types of connection hubs are available?

A There are several types of connection hubs, such as USB hubs, Ethernet hubs, and KVM switches. Each hub is intended for certain connections, but they all simplify and centralize peripherals.

#### Q Why would I need a USB hub?

A USB hubs enable you to connect more USB devices to your computer and can also be placed within easier reach than your computer's USB ports, which may be located on the back of the system.

#### Q How many USB devices can I connect to a hub?

A Many hubs support four or more USB devices and feature overcurrent protection to prevent damage to your computer and any connected peripherals.

#### Q Why would I need an Ethernet hub?

A If you have more than one computer in your house, an Ethernet hub or switch enables you to create a device network in your home, otherwise known as a LAN (local-area network). With a LAN, you can share devices, such as printers, as well as files between LAN-connected computers.

#### Q What's the difference between an Ethernet hub and switch?

A Hubs share bandwidth between all connected computers, which can cause data congestion among many computers. Switches offer a direct bandwidth line between computers and typically transmit data faster.

#### Q What is a KVM switch?

A A KVM (keyboard, video, mouse) switch enables you to control two or more computers one at a time with a single set of peripherals.

#### Q How does a KVM switch work?

A Connect the peripherals to the switch's input ports and attach computers to the output ports. You can then toggle between systems by pressing a key on your keyboard.

#### Q Is there a difference between KVM and KVMP switches?

A In addition to a keyboard, mouse, and monitor, a KVMP switch supports other peripherals such as a printer, scanner, external hard drive, or other USB device.

#### Q How many computers can I control with one KVM switch?

A Simple KVM switches support two computers, while more advanced switches support four or even eight.

#### Q How much do different connection hubs cost?

A USB hubs range from \$10 to \$50, while Ethernet hubs run from \$20 up to \$600. KVM switches also have a wide range, from \$25 to \$300 for advanced support.





## Accessories & Services

A computer is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what you need to go along with your shiny new purchase. We've rounded up several of our favorite

must-have accessories for every computer owner. Whether you have a laptop or desktop, be sure to add these items to your shopping list to complete your computing experience. **FG**

### KEYBOARD

- An ergonomic design can cut down on wrist strain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome
- Bluetooth connectivity lends itself to a tidy desk with one less wire to contend with
- A specialty model, such as a gaming or media keyboard, can add functionality to your pastime of choice

### SURGE PROTECTOR

- Ensure the electrical current running to your desktop or laptop computer doesn't exceed proper levels
- Portable models will protect your laptop when you're on the go for work or play

### CLEANING KIT

- Specially designed cleaners will keep your LCD or plasma computer screen clean without running the risk of scratching its surface
- Cloths are often made out of low-conductivity material in order to reduce static

### USB HUB

- Offers an affordable way to connect all of your peripherals, even if you have more gadgets than USB ports
- Adds the convenience of easy USB access—no more reaching behind your computer to plug in your USB devices

### EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

- Protect precious video and photo memories with backups
- Keep your computer running more efficiently by saving large files, such as your media collection, on an external drive

### MOUSE

- A wireless mouse will cut down on cable clutter at your desk while offering the convenience of portability for laptop use
- A gaming mouse can deliver better accuracy and speed for the ultimate in control
- Consider customizable buttons if you want to be able to access media, files, or programs with one-touch access

### PRINTER

- A quality photo printer will eliminate trips to the drugstore for 4x6 prints and give you the ability to instantly share your photo memories
- An all-in-one model is the perfect addition for any busy family that needs a device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax, and printer

### WEB CAM

- Bridge the gap between long-distance family and friends with online video chatting by adding a Web cam to your setup

### COMPUTING SERVICES

- To keep your desktop or laptop computer in tip-top shape, take advantage of the computing services offered at your local CE retailer. They can help you keep your machine running smoothly and free from the dangers that lurk online.
- Computer Setup & Networking
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Training & Consultation

# Computing Glossary



**S** hopping for a computer can be intimidating, especially with all of the complex terminology. Here, we explain some common computer jargon.

**Bluetooth**—A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, printers, PDAs, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

**broadband**—Network connections that transmit high-speed Internet access. Cable companies offer network speeds of up to 8 to 11Mbps (megabits per second), whereas phone companies offer DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), which supports maximum speeds of 3 to 5Mbps.

**CRT (cathode-ray tube)**—An old analog display technology for TVs and computer monitors. It features an electron gun illuminating phosphor dots that line the inside of a glass tube. When the phosphors are lit, they display on-screen images. CRTs consume a great deal of power and are heavy and bulky. Many CRTs support digital signals, though these degrade when converted to analog.

**dual-core processor**—This integrated circuit, which controls the computer, features two processors, each with its own cache, on a single die or chassis. In

a dual-core configuration, the operating system has two processors to handle instructions, speeding up the computer and its ability to multitask.

**Ethernet**—A widely used LAN protocol in which computers and networks are physically linked.

**firewall**—Hardware or software that limits access by a network or another outside source to your computer; it also may limit your computer's access to the network. These security measures are designed to protect your computer from outsiders who'd like to exploit it in some way. By the same token, firewalls may prevent infected files on your computer from accessing the larger network and spreading the problem to other users.

**LAN (local-area network)**—A group of computers that are physically connected by wires so they can communicate with one another and share information.

**LCD**—Liquid-crystal display technology sandwiches liquid crystals between thin sheets of glass. The crystals twist and untwist to allow and block light from a backlight, forming the images you see. LCDs are thinner, lighter, and consume less power than CRTs. Initially used mostly in notebook PCs, you'll now find LCD TVs and computer

monitors, and they are also in digital cameras, cell phones, portable DVD players, and PDAs, among others.

**office suite**—Productivity software, such as Microsoft Office, StarOffice, and OpenOffice, that often includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, database, and financial tools.

**operating system**—The software, such as Windows XP, Windows Vista, or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for the users.









**processor**—Also known as a microprocessor or the CPU, this integrated circuit controls the computer.

**RAM**—Random-access memory is a standard type of memory that's read from and written to by the CPU and hardware.

**upgradeable**—This term refers to the ability to add or swap out hardware to boost a computer's performance, increase its speed, or replace a defective or obsolete device or component. For instance, you may add more memory, replace an old CRT with a widescreen LCD, or swap out an older graphics card for a newer one that features an ATSC TV tuner so you can watch digital TV on your computer. Look for a computer with expansion slots or empty bays.

## Which Notebook Computer Is Best For You?

A notebook computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of notebook models.









		Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Screen size	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
	What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	The diagonal measurement of the notebook's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the laptop weighs	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
	<b>Dell I15-156B</b> MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 9149557	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.16GHz Intel Pentium Dual-Core	160GB; 3GB	15.6 inches	1.5x14.7x9.6 inches; 6.5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>HP Pavilion G60-235DX</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 9167947	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 T4200	320GB; 3GB	16 inches	1.7x14.8x9.9 inches; 6.57 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>Sony Vaio CS215J/W</b> MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9153195	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T6400	250GB; 4GB	14.1 inches	1.6x13.2x9.6 inches; 5.7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>Gateway MD7801u</b> MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9172539	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo T6400	500GB; 4GB	15.6 inches	1.7x15.2x10.4 inches; 7.7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>Asus G50Vt-X5</b> MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9173262	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo Mobile	320GB; 4GB	15.6 inches	1.6x14.8x10.4 inches; 7.7 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>HP Pavilion dv3510nr</b> MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9027714	Windows Vista Home Premium	2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 4GB	13.3 inches	1.4x12.6x9 inches; 4.6 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>Toshiba Satellite E105-S1402</b> MSRP: \$1,199.99* SKU 9022979	Windows Vista Home Premium	2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	320GB; 4GB	14.1 inches	1.2x13.4x9.7 inches; 5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
	<b>Apple MacBook MB467LL/A</b> MSRP: \$1,599* SKU 9107432	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	250GB; 2GB	13.3 inches	0.95x12.78x8.94 inches; 4.5 pounds	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; No

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



## Which Desktop PC Is Right For You?

When you shop for a desktop PC, you'll see lots of similar deals. The comparison chart below shows how subtle—yet important—the differences can be. If you need further help discerning the differences among these desktops, we suggest you consult an associate at your local CE retailer.

		Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Optical drives	Operating system	Graphics card	Ports
What It Means		Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Drives that can read and write CD-Rs, DVD-RWs, or HD discs	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Controls the quality of your video and images	Sockets that give your computer access to different peripherals
	<b>Compaq SR5710</b> MSRP: \$369.99* SKU 9175064	2.3GHz AMD Athlon X2	250GB; 3GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 6150 SE	6 USB
	<b>Acer AX1700-U3700A</b> MSRP: \$479.99* SKU 9174458	2.4GHz Intel Pentium Dual-Core	640GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce G100	9 USB
	<b>Gateway LX6810-01</b> MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 9174564	2.33GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	640GB; 8GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce GT120	6 USB; 2 FireWire
	<b>Dell X430-121B</b> MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9156619	2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Quad	750GB; 6GB	DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 3650	12 USB
	<b>Dell XPS-122B</b> MSRP: \$999.99* SKU 9180423	2.66GHz Intel Core i7	640GB; 4GB	DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	ATI Radeon HD 4850	8 USB; 2 FireWire
	<b>HP Pavilion Elite m9500y</b> MSRP: \$1,039.99* SKU 9174289	2.4GHz AMD Phenom X4	750GB; 8GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 9500 GS	6 USB; 2 FireWire
	<b>Apple iMac MB418LL/A</b> MSRP: \$1,499* SKU 9100992	2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	640GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard	Nvidia GeForce 9400M	4 USB; 1 FireWire
	<b>HP Touchsmart IQ526</b> MSRP: \$1,499.99* SKU 9181743	2.2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo	640GB; 4GB	Double-layer DVD±RW/ CD-RW	Windows Vista Home Premium	Nvidia GeForce 9300M GS HD	5 USB; 1 FireWire

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

## Software Listings

Get More Out Of Your PC

**C**omputers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, balance your checkbook, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

### Art/Illustration/Graphics



**Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo X2 Ultimate**  
\$99.99\*  
[www.corel.com](http://www.corel.com)

Professional photo-editing software in an easy-to-use package. The Ultimate version also comes with a bonus pack loaded with free extras.



**Adobe Photoshop Elements 7**  
\$99.99\*  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Photoshop Elements 7 from Adobe makes it easy to fix red-eye, combine photos for the perfect group shot, or tweak the color balance to make your photos look their best.



**Roxio Creator 2009**  
\$99.99\*  
[www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com)

With Roxio's Creator 2009, preserving your memories has become simpler than ever. You can now easily edit and touch up your photos, create unique DVDs using your home movies, and organize your music collection.



**Broderbund The Print Shop 23 Deluxe**  
\$49.99\*  
[www.broderbund.com](http://www.broderbund.com)

Easily create banners, business cards, letterheads, calendars, photo greeting cards, invitations, and more right from your computer with The Print Shop 23 Deluxe from Broderbund.

### Audio/Video



**Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Version 12**  
\$129.99\*  
[www.pinnaclesys.com](http://www.pinnaclesys.com)

Use automated and powerful video- and audio-editing tools to create and share your home movies.



**Apple iLife '09**  
\$79\*  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

Use Apple's popular iPhoto, iMovie, iWeb, GarageBand, and iDVD on your Mac to organize photos, create a Web site, record music, or edit movies.



**Magix Music Maker 14**  
\$59.99\*  
[www.magix.com](http://www.magix.com)

Produce your own music using more than 1,500 sounds, virtual instruments, and power chords. When you're done, use Music Maker 14 to create a music video using your composition.



**Apple Final Cut Express 4**  
\$199.99\*  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

A drag-and-drop interface provides seamless movement between editing, trimming, and adding effects to your videos. The software is compatible with DV, HDV, and AVCHD formats.

### Business Applications



**Microsoft Ultimate 2007**  
\$679.95\*  
[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

Use all of today's most popular business office applications—Excel, PowerPoint, and Word—plus Office Groove, InfoPath, OneNote, Access, Publisher, and Outlook.



**Adobe Acrobat 9 Standard**  
\$299\*  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Easily create, combine, and manage various PDF documents. The new version also includes a Form Wizard and commenting tools.



**Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2009**  
\$99.99\*  
[www.intuit.com](http://www.intuit.com)

Manage your money and your bills with ease while also saving money through Quicken Picks' online coupons and discounts.



**Smith Micro Software VMware Fusion 2**  
\$79.99\*  
[www.vmware.com](http://www.vmware.com)

This program lets you run Windows applications on your Intel-based Mac for greater freedom and productivity.

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

## Games/ Entertainment



**2K Games  
Sid Meier's  
Civilization IV**  
\$29.99\*

[www.2kgames.com](http://www.2kgames.com)

*This addictive strategy game has a multiplayer mode for additional ways to compete against your friends.*



**Got Game  
Entertainment  
Arctic Stud  
Poker Run**  
\$19.99\*

[www.gotgameentertainment.com](http://www.gotgameentertainment.com)

*This game combines the strategy of poker, the thrill of racing, and the explosions of combat in Tournament Elimination, single-player, or multiplayer modes.*



**Lucas Arts LEGO:  
Star Wars II: The  
Original Trilogy**  
\$19.99\*

[www.lucasarts.com](http://www.lucasarts.com)

*Follow your LEGO characters through the storyline of the original "Star Wars" movie trilogy while battling the enemy and solving puzzles.*



**Brighter Minds  
Media World  
Of Goo**  
\$19.99\*

[www.brightermindsmedia.com](http://www.brightermindsmedia.com)

*In this award-winning game, your challenge is to create structures out of Goo Balls. Gather up different types of Goo Balls that perform a variety of functions.*

## Home Productivity



**Nuance Dragon  
NaturallySpeaking  
10 Preferred**  
\$199.99\*

[www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com)

*Dictate emails, reports, and other documents much faster than you can type and let Dragon NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you.*



**Apple MobileMe**  
\$99\*  
[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)  
*MobileMe, Apple's*

*Internet service, lets you keep your email, contacts, and calendar up-to-date across your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, and PC. It also lets you store and share documents online via iDisk, and you can manage everything online through a suite of Web applications at [www.me.com](http://www.me.com).*



**Microsoft  
Streets &  
Trips 2009**  
\$39.95\*

[www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

*Plan your next vacation and share your travel plans with friends who will be joining you along the journey.*



**Susteen  
Pix'n  
Tunes**  
\$19.95\*

[www.datapilot.com](http://www.datapilot.com)

*Share the photos and music stored on your computer with your cell phone to customize your contacts and ringtones.*

## Security/ Utilities



**Kaspersky  
Labs Internet  
Security  
2009**  
\$79.95\*

[www.kaspersky.com](http://www.kaspersky.com)

*Premium protection that's updated hourly to keep your system safe from even the most recent threats.*



**Kaspersky  
Labs Anti-  
Virus 2009**  
\$59.99\*

[www.kaspersky.com](http://www.kaspersky.com)

*Kaspersky's newly updated Anti-Virus 2009 has added an advanced antivirus engine that increases scan times, giving you even better protection against viruses, Trojans, worms, spyware, adware, and more.*



**Webroot Software  
Spy Sweeper With  
AntiVirus**  
\$49.99\*

[www.webroot.com](http://www.webroot.com)

*Protect up to three computers from viruses and spyware. Spy Sweeper stops both known and potential threats by blocking suspicious activity.*



**Trend Micro  
AntiVirus +  
AntiSpyware 2009**  
\$39.95\*

[www.trendmicro.com](http://www.trendmicro.com)

*Automatic scans, updates, and outbreak alerts make it easy to safeguard data and files. Protect against viruses, worms, spyware, and Trojan horses.*

## Backup/ Recovery



**Symantec  
Norton Ghost  
14.0**  
\$69.99\*

[www.symantec.com](http://www.symantec.com)

*Back up your entire computer or select specific files for backup to ensure you're able to recover from any unforeseen events, such as a crash or virus attack.*



**iolo System  
Mechanic**  
\$49.95\*

[www.iolo.com](http://www.iolo.com)

*With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.*



**Acronis True  
Image Home  
2009**  
\$49.99\*

[www.acronis.com](http://www.acronis.com)

*With just one click, you can rest assured that your computer—operating system, files, applications, settings, and all—is backed up, so you can quickly recover from a crash.*



**iolo  
DriveScrubber**  
\$29.95\*  
[www.iolo.com](http://www.iolo.com)

*When it's time to get rid of your old computer, use DriveScrubber to ensure all your personal data has been deleted. DriveScrubber will wipe your entire drive, including free space, and restore damaged drives.*



TomTom GO 740 LIVE  
\$399  
www.tomtom.com

# TomTom GPS Devices

## Meet Your Personal Driving Assistant

**T**omTom operates with the understanding that the primary element of a personal navigation device is its mapping technology. With an emphasis in developing maps and technology that can be useful in everyday driving situations, TomTom uses technology from its own mapping company, Tele Atlas, using innovation, safety, and ease of use as its building blocks.

### Smart Technologies

We all want to get from point A to point B quickly, but because the traffic flow on your way to work on a Monday morning differs from what you'll encounter when you take the same route to pick up office documents on a Sunday afternoon, TomTom has created IQ Routes technology, which is available in the new TomTom ONE 140 and ONE 140S (\$179.99 and \$199.99; www.tomtom.com), XL 340 (\$229.95), and GO 740 LIVE (\$399). To create the fastest and most efficient driving route, IQ Routes consults historical speed information for particular days and times gathered from millions of TomTom GPS units that are in use. The IQ Routes feature also factors traffic patterns and lights, rotaries, school bus routes, and steep roads when creating your route, helping you spend less time

in your car and more time enjoying your life.

In addition to providing you with the quickest, most efficient route, TomTom provides the most current GPS maps. TomTom includes Map Share on all its GPS devices, enabling TomTom users around the world to mutually benefit from each other's local road knowledge at no additional cost. TomTom users can instantly share and create map routes using user updates such as blocked or unblocked streets, one-way traffic indications, or newly added street names.

TomTom's GO LIVE service, which is available on TomTom's GO LIVE GPS line, complements the Map Share and IQ Routes features to give TomTom drivers the most up-to-date traffic, fuel, and local search information. GO LIVE GPSes, such as the new TomTom GO 740 LIVE, include a SIM card and GPRS modem that connect to a data network for traffic information and driving conditions, so TomTom users can arrive at their

destination quickly and safely. GO LIVE services receive an update every two to five minutes, keeping your TomTom GO LIVE GPS apprised of the latest changes in traffic and keeping you away from driving delays as you travel to your destination.

### Navigate Here, Navigate There

In addition to traffic updates, TomTom's GO LIVE services also include Local Search powered by Google. This feature is particularly helpful when you need to grab a bite to eat because you can search for restaurants in your area, read restaurant reviews, and then select Navigate There to receive GPS directions. GO LIVE also gives you the ability to search for the cheapest gas in your area by listing gas pump prices and directions.

If you want to get where you're going effortlessly and quickly and have information at your fingertips, TomTom GPS devices can help improve your everyday driving experience. **FG**

### Features Of TomTom's GO Devices

IQ Routes Technology	Voice Recognition	Advanced Lane Guidance	Spoken Instructions and Street Names	Bluetooth Hands-Free Calling
Calculates the most efficient routes based on real-time driving speeds	Give your GPS more than 130 spoken commands	Prepares you ahead of time for street exits and junctions	Keep your eyes on the road and not your GPS' map	Chat on your mobile phone without taking your hands off the wheel

FirstGlimpse

# Car Electronics Overview

## Trick It Out, Beef It Up, Keep It Safe



**I**n our increasingly mobile society, we always seem to be going somewhere in our cars, moving from point A to point B to point C. You can spend this time in a more enjoyable and efficient way by adding or upgrading to the most appropriate car electronics for your lifestyle.

### Car Stereos

A car stereo can be comprised of a few standard components or numerous high-end components, such as speaker systems, subwoofers, amps, and satellite radio. For the most part, though, you'll control your car stereo via an in-dash interface that lets you manage your CDs, MP3s, satellite radio, or even DVDs. For instance, the Pioneer DEH-P1300UB CD Receiver (\$150; [www.pioneer-electronics.com](http://www.pioneer-electronics.com)) is fully featured with high-definition radio, satellite radio support, CD compatibility, a Bluetooth adapter, and an iPod-ready USB connection.

### Speakers

To pump the sound of your favorite songs through your car while your windows are rolled down, you'll need a set of speakers than can produce enough premium song quality. Make sure you know how much wattage you'll require for the size and style of your vehicle. If you're considering an upgrade for your car's factory-installed speakers, look for a pair of standard-sized speakers, such as the

Alpine SPR-17C 6 1/2-inch Coaxial 2-Way Speaker Set (\$180; [www.alpine-usa.com](http://www.alpine-usa.com)), which provide an accurate reproduction of the original sound through Ultra-Low Distortion and fluid playback.

### In-dash GPS

As you shop for an in-dash GPS receiver, you'll find that built-in audio and visual navigation is one of many features incorporated into high-quality in-dash systems. A GPS-ready car stereo had the ability to project an in-dash GPS' voice commands through your car speakers as you view map directions on the in-dash monitor. By purchasing an in-dash GPS, not only will you be taking advantage of your car's fullest capabilities, but you will also make your use of car electronics more efficient.

### Car Video

An in-dash video system is far more than an LCD monitor with playback capabilities. Many in-dash video decks support satellite radio, built-in HD radio, DVDs, photo formats, and even touchscreens. A rear seat or headrest monitor with a widescreen would be a smart addition to your vehicle if you need to entertain your daughter and other young students as

you drive your weekly carpool route. When you hook your portable DVD player up to one of these peripheral monitors, your passengers can enjoy their favorite films while on the road.

### Radar Detectors

Many radar detectors use laser technology to identify emergency vehicles in a 360-degree radius. Some radar detectors come with safety features that notify you of railroad crossings or road hazards on your route while you're traveling at night. Before buying a radar detector, make sure they are legal in your state.

### Safety Extras

Protecting your vehicle is just as important as locking your home. By installing a two-way security system that includes sirens, LEDs, and a starter disabler, you can keep carjackers and thieves from victimizing your automobile. Also, rearview cameras give you a better view of what's behind you than mirrors can, and a remote start kit will make sure your car is ready to go with just a push of a button. **PG**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

## Car Installation Services

The car-audio professionals at your local CE retailer are trained to install a wide range of products in your vehicle. Installation is available for the following devices:

- Car decks
- In-dash GPS receivers
- Speakers
- Car amplifiers
- In-dash satellite radio



# MP3 Player Audio Systems

## Dock & Play Anywhere You Like

**I**f you think the selection of MP3 players has multiplied rapidly, you'll want to know about the profusion of audio systems that will enhance your MP3 player listening experience. By adding an MP3 player dock unit, you're no longer confined to the in-ear sounds coming from your earbuds or headphones.

### Far Beyond The Boom Box

While MP3 player audio systems come in all shapes, sizes, and colors (mostly silver and black), the majority of them are portable enough to move to any room in your home or provide entertainment for your backyard grill-out. You'll find some as small as 6 inches, but others are large enough to be a slick centerpiece in your entertainment room. If you pay attention to design over function, look for one-of-a-kind styles and distinct characteristics, such as a cube shape, circular platform, or separated left and right speakers.

Numerous systems support old generations of MP3 players, but you'll also see dock units best-suited for some of the latest players with mobile phone capabilities and personalized applications. These types of dock stations automatically pause songs when you receive an incoming call on the phone. Clock radios can also be incorporated into many alarm-based models. After listening to your MP3 player during the day, you can dock it in an alarm station and

wake up to the same song you heard the previous night.

### Features For Rockin' Out

One of the most convenient ways to use your MP3 player dock is via remote control. An included remote will allow you to control multiple functions—menu, pause, radio—from across the room. Some docking stations feature built-in LED backlighting so when you want to know the name of the song that is playing as you wake up from your nap, you can glance over to check its information. Also, take note of other unique features, including additional

subwoofers, motion-activated snooze, and cylinder-shaped construction for your bicycle's bottle holder. These features help you match your MP3 player audio system to your daily activities.

### Find Your Match

Before you make a buying decision, be sure to check the brand compatibility of your preferred MP3 audio system. You'll want to be able to immediately dock your MP3 player and start enjoying all the music you love. **FE**

BY JOANNA SAFFORD

### Ways To Go Waterproof

**W**hether you're sipping lemonade beside the pool, building a sandcastle with your children at the beach, or taking a refreshing shower after an intense workout, music can make each activity more enjoyable. You can easily toss a set of water-resistant portable speakers into your tote bag on the way out the door.

A larger waterproof MP3 speaker system that includes enough wattage to support high levels and bass tones can pump out your favorite tunes without muffling the nuances of a particular song and can be used indoors or outdoors. A protective case and waterproof seal will shield your MP3 player from water splashes and condensation. ●





# GPS Devices

## They're Not All The Same



rinting out maps and turn-by-turn directions from the Internet is so yesterday. Stopping to ask someone for directions? Even more outdated.

With GPS devices, you don't have to do either. Instead, you can tap in to maps, download Web-based updates, and receive optional real-time traffic services to get where you need to go.

GPS devices differ as widely as the vehicles and drivers they guide. Generally, they fall into three categories—handheld, portable, and in-dash—and they offer different features and form factors. We'll explain each type and point you to the one that best suits your lifestyle and travel needs. **PG**

BY RACHEL DEROWITSCH

### Handheld

- Compact and lightweight
- Loaded with detailed maps
- Rugged hardware
- Easy to use and take with you

Handhelds are generally smaller, lighter, and less expensive than the other two types of GPS devices. Some are designed to help you track your exercise regimen and monitor your heart rate. A few even strap around your wrist, making physical activities, such as biking or jogging, easier. Others double as PDAs.

Integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities enable you to easily download the most current maps and traffic information. On some models, if you input your destination, the device will figure out the most efficient way to go, guiding you with colored graphics and text and voice prompts.

**Perfect For:** Hikers, bikers, and drivers. Handheld devices are ideal for outdoor enthusiasts who also like to hit the road occasionally.

### Portable

- Car-mountable
- Easily moves from car to car
- Runs on vehicle and sometimes battery power
- Loaded with detailed maps

No matter where you need it, a portable GPS device will help get you to your destination. It's designed to run on a vehicle's power source, but if you want to take a spontaneous hiking trip, you can carry the battery-powered units with you, as well.

With larger touchscreens than handheld models, portable GPS devices can map out your directions in full color. Programmed points of interest, a trip calculator, antitheft system, and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery are other features to look for.

**Perfect For:** Trip-takers. Portable GPS devices are ideal for multicar families who want to switch the device among vehicles and possibly take it along on an outdoor excursion.

### In-Dash

- Large screen
- Multimedia functions
- Robust navigation features
- Pulls in strongest satellite signals

The maps and trip-calculating features of an in-dash GPS device are by far the most advanced of the three types. One thing to consider: You will probably need professional installation for an in-dash system.

These larger GPS devices come with more bells and whistles than smaller models. Some features to consider include Bluetooth compatibility, satellite radio, and integration with an MP3 player. With some in-dash models, you can also receive live weather and traffic updates.

**Perfect For:** Road warriors. Those who travel extensively and frequently visit new and unfamiliar places will definitely appreciate this device's large screen, powerful navigating capabilities, and entertainment options.

# Geek Squad Black Tie Protection Plan For Mobile Phones

## Your Mobile Phone's Safety Net



Mobile phones are an important tool in our lives, and we put a lot of time and thought into the type of device and service we need. So, when we purchase a mobile phone, we expect it to be a long-lasting relationship. When that relationship ends suddenly because our device no longer works, we need someone to turn to. Geek Squad has introduced the Geek Squad Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones to give you peace of mind after you've selected a cell phone from Best Buy Mobile. What's better, you won't have to pay a deductible to counteract your phone's potential mishaps.

Sometimes we are so busy using our phones that we don't pay attention to how we are treating them. Geek Squad Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones is designed to cover your phone against everyday wear and tear. For example, clusters of pixels on your phone's display may become defective. Geek Squad offers uniform pixel repair that consists of fixing three pixels situated in a cluster less than a half square-inch or five pixels across the phone's entire display. The plan also pays for repairs that may occur after accidental



**GEEK SQUAD®  
BLACK TIE  
PROTECTION**

damage from handling. Should you harm your phone with a coffee spill or by dropping it down the stairs, Geek Squad will repair it in-store without an additional cost. The Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones will also fix damage caused by dust, heat, or humidity for no cost, as these elements could cause your phone to overheat internally or fail.

If your phone fails after a power surge or power fluctuation, the Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones will also cover repair costs. And because no one likes a lemon, or a phone that fails multiple times due to a manufacturing or mechanical defect, the plan's "No Lemon" policy will replace your phone with a model of comparable value (not to exceed the original purchase price) if it requires four qualified repairs.

Like other problems with your phone, a battery that's not performing at its peak can get in the way of your calls and texts. Every time you charge your mobile phone, the battery life decreases. You might not notice it at first, but once you've had your phone for more than a year or so, you might. Geek Squad will replace or repair your cell phone battery one time throughout the coverage period, so you won't have to worry about diminished talk time in between charges.



Not only will Geek Squad come to your rescue during a mobile phone misfortune, but you'll benefit from the plan even if nothing goes wrong with your phone. The Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones gives you double Reward Zone points (based on the plan's purchase price) if your plan expires and you never needed repairs made to your phone. The Geek Squad Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones is good for up to two years and is available for anyone who signs a two-year service plan agreement when purchasing a phone through Best Buy Mobile. What you pay for the Black Tie Protection Plan will be based on the price of the phone model you select, which can range from \$6.99 to \$9.99 per month. The Apple iPhone plan is \$14.99 per month.

So, if you're accident-prone or generally free of mobile phone mishaps, you can benefit from the Geek Squad Black Tie Protection Plan for mobile phones. **EG**



FirstGlimpse

# Essential

## THINGS TO KNOW

### WIRELESS ON THE ROAD

**Q** How can I play my MP3 player through my car stereo?

**A** There are several product categories for this purpose. Auxiliary connectors are typically plug and play. Basic connectors simply plug into your FM stereo or work with your cassette tape player and then broadcast your player's music over the FM radio.

**Q** Is there a way to charge my MP3 player in the car?

**A** Many types of connector adapters for listening to your MP3 player or iPod in the car will also charge your player while you are driving. Capabilities and compatibilities vary by model.

**Q** How can I put new music on my MP3 player while traveling?

**A** If you have music on your notebook, just bring the notebook along and transfer it from there. Another option would be to bring along an external hard drive that contains your music collection. Then you can transfer your music whenever you want.

**Q** Without my stereo dock, is there a way to share my MP3 music while away from home?

**A** You can buy portable speakers designed to plug into your MP3 player. iPod docking stations and Y adapters for headphones will also work to share your music with others.

**Q** What's the difference between a portable and in-dash GPS device?

**A** A portable GPS device can be removed from the car at the destination to provide further direction assistance. In-dash devices are built into the car's panel and can't be manually removed.

**Q** Will I be able to use my GPS device outside of the United States?

**A** In order to provide accurate information, the device will need to be loaded with maps for the country you are in. If your device is preloaded with only U.S. maps, check with the manufacturer to get international maps.

**Q** What GPS services require an extra monthly fee?

**A** Each manufacturer will have different pay packages, but for the most part, extra fees are required for such services as live traffic updates. You may also have to pay extra for construction updates and local weather forecasts.

**Q** How can I talk on my phone in the car without taking my hands off the wheel?

**A** There are many devices that use Bluetooth technology, which allows wireless communication between your phone and a headset, your GPS device, or a phone dock. This allows you to use the phone through voice commands and keeps your hands free.

**Q** I'd like to be able to use my phone to get directions while traveling. Is that possible?

**A** Many phones come equipped with a built-in GPS receiver so you don't need a separate GPS device. These phones can provide directions, maps, and point-of-interest information, but the service usually requires an additional monthly fee.

**Q** Do I need a special cell phone when I travel abroad?

**A** You'll need a GSM phone. The United States uses the CDMA system, and CDMA phones won't work abroad. AT&T/Cingular and T-Mobile offer GSM phones. You can also buy an unlocked GSM phone without signing a contract.







MOBILE

## Accessories & Services

No matter where you go, a wireless device can add enjoyment to your journey. Cell phones help you keep in touch with loved ones when you're traveling for business, while a GPS device can help you find your way if you're lost or want to find the local hot spots during a vacation. And,

of course, your MP3 player can provide a soundtrack wherever you're headed. To make sure you are taking full advantage of the capabilities your wireless devices offer, check your local CE retailer for accessories that can enhance your experiences. We've listed our favorites below. **FC**

### MP3 PLAYER CASES

- Protect your MP3 player from bumps and scratches
- Quickly access your player's functions with a clip
- Keep your player out of your way with an armband

### MP3 PLAYER DOCKS & SPEAKERS

- Invest in portable speakers to play the music on your MP3 player for a group; some include radios and can also play CDs
- Recharge your player's battery with a portable dock as you continue to listen to music
- Play your music through car speakers using an FM transmitter

### MP3 PLAYER EARPHONES

- Match earphones to your needs: If you don't want anything bulky, opt for earbuds that fit inside your ear; to hear every musical detail, try headphones that cover the ear completely
- Hear your music without the interference of background noise with earphones that offer a noise-canceling feature

### CELL PHONE CHARGERS & BATTERIES

- Keep your phone charged no matter where you are; adapters for your cell phone let you use solar power, your car's DC outlet, wall power, or your computer to charge your phone
- Be prepared for emergencies with extra cell phone batteries

### CELL PHONE HEADSETS

- Keep your hands free while still being able to use your phone
- Link compatible cell phones to a Bluetooth headset to make or take calls without a tangled mess of cable
- Don't miss any of your conversation by using a headset that offers noise-canceling capabilities

### CELL PHONE CASES

- Safeguard your phone from wear and tear with a case
- Universal cases fit most sizes of cell phones; some of these will include clips and wrist straps for portability and accessibility
- Fitted cases specifically fit your phone's model type; these can be hard acrylic casings, rubber sleeves, or leather pouches
- Avoid scratches and fingerprints with stick-on or hard, clear screen protectors on your phone's screen

### GPS MOUNTS

- Put your GPS within hand's reach with a mount
- Mounts can be placed on a car dash or stuck to a windshield
- Unique GPS mounts are available for golf carts or bicycles

### GPS CHARGERS

- Make sure your travel companion always has a full battery
- Charge your GPS no matter where you are with an adapter; these can plug into a wall, PC, or car's DC outlet

### MOBILE SERVICES

Whether your wireless device is brand-new or nearing the end of its life span, your local CE retailer offers services to help you take care of all of your wireless device needs.

- Protection plans for GPSes, MP3 players, and cell phones
- Phone and battery recycling
- GPS setup and deck installation
- MP3 vehicle integration
- MP3 player setup and training
- Cell phone repair services and loaner phones

# MP3 Player Glossary

**W**

ho doesn't want an MP3 player? It can help you relax, provide motivation, and keep you up-to-date on news. When you head to your local CE retailer to snag one, make sure you have this glossary so you can choose the perfect model.

**AAC**—Short for Advanced Audio Codec, it is a competitor of the more popular MP3 file format.

**Click Wheel**—Apple's proprietary circular control on the front of the iPod.

**download**—In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or digital music player. You'll download songs from music service Web sites such as iTunes, Napster, or Rhapsody.

**DRM (Digital Rights Management)**—A security mechanism for digital media. A common DRM scheme for digital music involves getting a license file to authorize playback of a free or purchased song.

**earbuds**—Small, circular devices you put into your ears that serve the same function as headphones. Music players come with their own earbuds, but you can, of course, purchase a separate pair that are more comfortable or of better quality.

**flash memory**—Solid-state memory with no moving parts that is lightweight and small. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and it also won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash drive isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

**FM tuner**—In music players, a built-in FM tuner lets you listen to local radio.

**hard drive**—Storage in which rigid platters are inside a fixed casing. In terms of digital music players, a hard drive-based player is larger and heavier than a flash-based player. Because of the moving parts (the platters), hard drive-based players are also prone to skipping. However, the capacities are much larger than flash-drive capacities.

**iTunes**—An application that loads onto your computer and lets you play, organize, and download and purchase music, videos, podcasts, and television shows for a portable media player or computer.

**MP3**—Perhaps the most popular digital audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

**playlist**—A queue of songs a user creates to play on a computer, burn to a CD, or transfer to an MP3 player. The playlist includes only directions to the location of the songs, not the songs themselves.

**PlaysForSure**—A popular Microsoft certification that ensures portable devices, such as MP3 players, and media, such as digital music and videos, are compatible with each other.

**podcast**—A downloadable episode that is similar to a radio program. A



user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time. A podcast is usually available in MP3 format.

**screen**—The display on the front of a portable music player. A player's screen can either display in color or black and white.








**WMA**—Windows Media Audio is a digital audio format created by Microsoft to compete with the MP3 format. WMA files are smaller than MP3 files.

**widescreen**—A screen with a 16:9 aspect ratio.

# Hit The Road With A TomTom GPS



TomTom believes that personal navigation should be as easy and safe as possible. They develop smart technology that gives you straightforward solutions and innovations to make life easy including their exclusive TomTom Map Share™ and IQ Routes™ features.

Product Name SKU	One 130/130S 8774463 8774427	One 140/140S 9263272 9263254	XL 330/XL 330S 8785068 8785077	XL 340 9263263	GO 630 9263236	GO 730 8774533	GO 740 LIVE 9263281
							
MSRP	\$129.95/\$149.95	\$179.95/\$199.95	\$179.95/\$199.95	\$229.95	\$299.95	\$349.95	\$399
Touchscreen Size	3.5-inch	3.5-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch
Preloaded Maps	United States, Canada	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada	United States, Canada, Mexico	United States, Canada	United States, Canada	United States, Canada
Fold & Go EasyPort™ Mount	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Spoken Instructions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spoken Street Names	Only available on the One 130S	Only available on the One 140S	Only available on the XL 330S	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
30-Day Latest Map Guarantee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Plug & Go	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
TomTom Map Share™	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
IQ Routes™	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Advanced Lane Guidance	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Extras	Preloaded Points of Interest	7 million Points of Interest	Preloaded Points of Interest	7 million Points of Interest	Preloaded Points of Interest, Blue- tooth® Hands- free Calling, Voice Address Input	Preloaded Points of Interest, Blue- tooth® Hands- free Calling, Voice Address Input	Unlimited Points of Interest, Blue- tooth® Hands- free Calling, Voice Address Input, Voice Recognition, LIVE Services

\* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse



## Find Your BlackBerry Fit



There's nothing boring about a BlackBerry®. You can easily take your pick of the most fully featured smartphones on the mobile market by using this chart to narrow down the perfect model for you. Consider what type of interface (QWERTY pad, touchscreen) would best suit your mobile needs. Or, decide what security options are ideal for the way you use a smartphone. All of the phones listed below include the BlackBerry® Maps application for on-the-go navigation.

Product Name SKU	BlackBerry® Pearl™ Flip 8976922	BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 8841916	BlackBerry® Curve™ 8350i 9144133	BlackBerry® Curve™ 8900 9205326	BlackBerry® Bold™ 9062382	BlackBerry® Storm™ 9118929
						
MSRP	\$399.99*	\$679.99*	\$599.99*	\$649.99*	\$659.99*	\$599.99*
Carrier	T-Mobile	Alltel	Sprint/Nextel	T-Mobile	AT&T	Verizon
Wireless Email	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Product Weight	3.6 ounces	4.02 ounces	4.8 ounces	3.9 ounces	4.8 ounces	5.5 ounces
Media Player	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Built-In Camera	Yes; 2MP	Yes; 2MP	Yes; 2MP	Yes; 3.2MP	Yes; 2MP	Yes; 3.2MP
Display	Color display; back-lighting; light-sensing screen; internal display 240 x 320 pixel color; external display 128 x 160 pixel color	Color display; backlighting; light-sensing screen	Color display; backlighting; light-sensing screen	Color display; backlighting; light-sensing screen; transmissive TFT LCD	Color display; backlighting; light-sensing screen; transmissive TFT LCD	Color display; light-sensing screen; transmissive TFT LCD; 480 x 360 pixel color
Battery Talk Time	4 hours	Up to 260 minutes	4 hours	5.5 hours	Up to 4.5 hours	6 hours
Device Security	Password protection; keyboard lock; FIPS validation; support for S/MIME	Password protection; keyboard lock; FIPS validation; support for S/MIME	Password protection; keyboard lock; FIPS validation; support for S/MIME; Sleep mode	Password protection; keyboard lock; support for S/MIME; Sleep mode	Password protection; keyboard lock; FIPS validation; support for S/MIME	Password protection; keyboard lock; FIPS validation; support for S/MIME
Memory	128MB flash; MicroSD support	96MB flash; MicroSD support	128MB flash; MicroSD support	256MB flash; MicroSD, SDHD support	1GB onboard; 12MB flash; MicroSD support	1GB onboard; 128MB flash; MicroSD support
BlackBerry® Maps	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Form Factor	SureType®; QWERTY	QWERTY	QWERTY	QWERTY	Trackball; QWERTY	SureType®; Multi-tap; QWERTY
Networks Supported	GMS/GPRS 850/900/1900/1800; EDGE; HSDPA	CDMA2000; 1X EvDO	800/900MHz; Tx; Rx	GMS/GPRS 850/900/1900/1800; EDGE; HSDPA	UMTS; GMS/GPRS 850/900/1900/1800; EDGE; HSDPA	CDMA/EvDO; UMTS; GMS/GPRS 850/900/1900/1800; EDGE; HSDPA

\* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

FirstGlimpse

## Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?









Pods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacities	Songs	Video; FM tuner capabilities	Colors	Battery life
What It Means		Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has (on models available at Best Buy)	Based on four-minute songs at 128Kbps, the number a player can hold	Some MP3 players can play video or let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	<b>Creative Zen Stone Plus</b> MSRP: \$39.99* SKU 8891498	Flash	2GB	500	No; Yes	Black, blue, red, pink, green, white	9.5 hours
	<b>Sony Walkman</b> MSRP: \$59.99* SKU 9080148	Flash	2GB	475	No; Yes	Red, pink, black	14 hours
	<b>Apple iPod shuffle</b> MSRP: \$79* SKU 9229505	Flash	4GB	1,000 (AAC)	Neither	Black, silver	10 hours
	<b>SanDisk Sansa Fuze</b> MSRP: \$79.99*; \$99.99*; \$129.99* SKU 8753789	Flash	2GB; 4GB; 8GB	500; 1,000; 2,000	Both	Black, red, pink, blue	24 hours
	<b>Microsoft Zune 8GB</b> MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 9008502	Flash	8GB	2,000	Both	Blue, green	24 hours
	<b>Samsung P2</b> MSRP: \$199.99*; \$249.99* SKU 8627961	Flash	4GB; 8GB	N/A	Both	Black, burgundy	30 hours
	<b>Apple iPod touch</b> MSRP: \$229*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 8772063	Flash	8GB; 16GB; 32GB	1,750; 3,500; 7,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black	36 hours
	<b>Apple iPod classic</b> MSRP: \$249* SKU 8772036	Hard drive	120GB	30,000 (AAC)	Only video	Black, silver	36 hours

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

## Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS device, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

		Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to- speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 play- back	Included charging adapters
	<b>What It Means</b>	The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out specific street names; Unit receives traffic updates and re-routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exceptional GPS accuracy	Some units communicate wirelessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	<b>TomTom ONE 130</b> MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 8774463	3.5 inches; 3.8x3.2x1 inches	No; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
	<b>Navigon 2100</b> MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 8617302	3.5 inches; 3.1x4x0.7 inches	Yes; No	Continental U.S.	No	No; No	DC adapter
	<b>LG LN740</b> MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 8440868	4 inches; 3.5x4.5x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; Yes	AC adapter
	<b>Insignia NS-CNV10</b> MSRP: \$399* SKU 8947287	3.5 inches; 3.21x4x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	No; Yes	DC adapter; AC adapter
	<b>Magellan Maestro 4370</b> MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9039257	5 inches; 4.65x3.26x0.7 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	Yes; Yes	DC adapter; AC adapter
	<b>TomTom GO 740 LIVE</b> MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 9263281	4.3 inches; 3.4x5x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; No	N/A
	<b>Insignia NS-CNV20</b> MSRP: \$499* SKU 8947312	4.3 inches; 3.21x4.68x0.9 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico)	Yes	Yes; No	DC adapter; AC adapter
	<b>Garmin nüvi 765T</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 8956089	4.3 inches; 3x4.8x0.8 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	Yes; Yes	DC adapter

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



Nyko Wand Core Pak  
\$49.99  
[www.nyko.com](http://www.nyko.com)

# Nyko Wand Core Pak

## Take Control Of Your Wii™

**T**he Wii™ game console has blown past all expectations and sales boundaries, delighting young and old alike. With its motion-sensitive controllers, gameplay has crossed over to thousands of users who have never bought a gaming system before.

Part of the Wii's charm is its handheld remote and ergonomic controllers. However, there's definitely some room for improvement on these controllers' design. That's where Nyko comes in with its Wand Core Pak (\$49.99; [www.nyko.com](http://www.nyko.com)) of alternate Wii controllers.

### Comfort Is Key

If you have recently bought a Wii, you'll find that the prevailing wisdom holds true: The first things you'll want to buy are extra controllers. However, it's critical to make sure that the accessories you buy feel comfortable to you, so you can play for longer without your hands feeling tired. After a Star Wars battle, a

boxing match, and a quick round of tennis, you may find that Nyko's Wand and Kama controllers simply feel better in your hands. To prevent the controllers from slipping during intense gameplay, the Wand and Kama both offer rubberized grips. And to make for a more enjoyable gaming experience, the Kama has a wider design and natural Z button placement that won't strain your hand.

### One-Of-A-Kind Technology

With the original Wii controllers, there's something missing. Sure, the remote may vibrate so you can feel the impact of swatting a tennis ball and tapping in a 10-foot putt on-screen. On the other hand, quite literally, your second Wii controller lays motionless in your palm. If you're a dedicated action and sports gamer, you want more.

The Nyko Wand Core Pak improves upon the Wii controller designs with its patent-pending Trans-Port Technology. The Wand and Kama are the only Wii accessory combo that offers dual vibration. The next time you fire up your

favorite dual-controller games, the Trans-Port Technology will make it possible for you to feel bumps and thuds on both hands, which creates a more immersive game experience.

### Upgrade Your Gameplay

If you're a hardcore gamer, you want total control. You want flexibility from your game controllers, including the ability to change a game's action buttons to a more personalized layout. One of the most compelling features of the Nyko Wand Core Pak lets you do just that. Nyko's Trans-Port technology also allows other compatible peripherals, such as a thumb stick or a gun, to emulate the buttons and functions of the Wand remote. This provides you with an upgrade path as additional controllers emerge. Making your games more realistic and enjoyable, Trans-Port will let your controllers grow along with your collection of games.

The bottom line: Nyko simply makes gaming more fun. And isn't that why you bought a Wii in the first place? **EG**





## Accessories & Services

The gaming experience goes beyond the game itself—you need the right console peripherals and the best just-in-case services. We've compiled a list

of some of the must-have accessories that will only serve to enhance your gameplay, so be sure to remember these items for your next trip to your local CE retailer. **EG**

### HEADSETS

- Use a hands-free headset to enhance your gaming experience by planning strategies aloud with your team
- A Bluetooth 2.0 headset is designed to communicate with your gaming console; Bluetooth headsets will be compatible with most game consoles
- Consider noise-canceling headsets with echo-minimizing microphones so you can hear and be heard clearly

### WIRELESS PLAY-AND-CHARGE KIT

- Enjoy continuous gameplay as your controller recharges wirelessly, without the hassle of cords
- Look for a play-and-charge kit that includes a power-gauge dashboard so you can keep track of your controller's battery status

### USB DEVICES

- A USB media hub featuring a memory card reader will enable you to connect other USB devices (MP3 players, portable gaming devices, etc.) to your game console
- Use a USB rechargeable battery pack to charge the Li-Ion battery for guitar controllers

### WIRELESS CONTROLLER

- Bluetooth technology lets you play with the freedom to move around
- Some controllers use traditional AAA batteries to sustain your playing time
- Find the best design for your grip: ergonomic or traditional

### GAMING KEYBOARD

- Adding a keyboard can help game efficiency—type in text codes and chat with other players quickly
- Look for a model with a touchpad so you can easily scroll around the game display

### MUSIC CONTROLLER ACCESSORIES

- Add a heavy-duty bass pedal to your gaming drum set to replace your standard pedal
- A tripod microphone stand will make your song-based games more true-to-life
- Extra cymbals for your rock drum kit will give you more freedom to express musical ability

### EXTERNAL MEMORY

- External hard drives, USB drives, or memory cards back up your in-progress games
- When additional memory is connected to live (online) games, you can save gaming content and downloads
- The more memory you have, the more games and downloads you'll be able to store

### RACING WHEELS

- A gaming steering wheel puts the virtual racing experience directly in your hands
- A comfortable, accurate wheel should give you more control with turns, braking, and acceleration
- Be sure to purchase a racing wheel that's compatible with your particular gaming console

### GAMING SERVICES

Your local CE retailer provides some helpful services, both in-home and in-store, to enhance your gaming console. Specifically, the professionals can set up online connections, install system updates, and transfer data to a gaming storage device.

- Online account configuration
- Console system updates
- Stream media from a PC to gaming console
- Connect a console to a home-theater center



## Wii™ Accessories

### Experience Full-Featured Gaming



#### Nyko Wand Core Pak

MSRP: \$49.99

SKU: 9295265

[www.nyko.com](http://www.nyko.com)

#### Quick Overview

The Wand Core Pak from Nyko includes an alternative to the Wii™ Remote™ and Nunchuk™: the Wand controller and Wired Kama with Rumble. The Kama with Rumble is the first and only model to incorporate full-vibration feedback, and both devices utilize Nyko's all-new Trans-Port™ Technology. This technology transfers key action buttons and vibration to other accessories for more control, providing a richer gaming experience and more accurate digital input response.

#### Perfect For

The Wand Core Pak is a perfect starter set for Wii gamers who are looking for controllers with a comfortable fit and extra grip.

#### Outstanding Benefits

- The Wand is fully compatible with Wii software and accessories, while the Kama with Rumble is fully compatible with all Wii software that utilizes the Nunchuk™ controller
- Trans-Port™ Technology provides full-vibration support for immersive gameplay
- The Wand's accelerometer provides full-motion control gameplay, and the included CMOS camera allows for better pointer and cursor functionality
- Bluetooth® technology allows for wireless play up to 20 feet away from the console

#### Cooldest Feature

The Wired Kama with Rumble connects to the Wand via a 4-foot cord and utilizes Nyko's exclusive Trans-Port™ Technology to enable vibration for all game titles that feature remote vibration.





## Gaming Titles

# Kick Out The Jams In Your Living Room



**Rated T for TEEN:** Suitable for ages 13 and older; lyrics may contain mild suggestive themes.

### Activision Guitar Hero World Tour

**MSRP: \$49.99 to \$59.99**

SKUs: 8870037 (Wii)

8870055 (Xbox 360)

8870064 (PS3)

[www.guitarherogame.com](http://www.guitarherogame.com)

### Game Synopsis

Like the rock icons the game puts on display, the Guitar Hero franchise has enjoyed a meteoric rise to fame and popularity thanks to approachable gameplay mechanics and a varied song list sure to get anybody's head bopping. The latest iteration, Guitar Hero World Tour, adds drums, a mic, and a wireless guitar to the mix to let the whole family experience rock triumph and the adoration of thousands of screaming fans.

### Perfect For

With four difficulty settings, this game is fun for garage-band beginners, yet sufficiently challenging for shredding veterans.

### Extra Details

- A large, diverse set list that consists of all Master Tracks (no covers)
- Compose, edit, record, and share your own songs with others
- Play alone, play together in the same room, or play together online
- Create your own character, personalize your gear, and design a band logo and album cover
- Additional accessories will let you rock out with a wireless guitar with touch-sensitive neck slider or a complete drum set

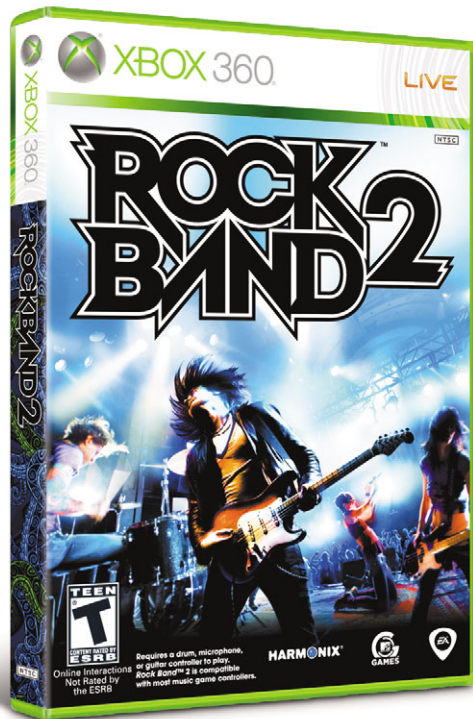
### Coollest Feature

Guitar Hero World Tour features multiple game modes: Career mode lets you tour the world solo with any instrument; embark on a World Tour with a two-, three-, or four-person band; play cooperatively online; go Head-to-Head online solo or as a band; and play online to move up the ranks against other GH players.

HARMONIX



## Gaming Titles Back For An Encore



**Rated T for TEEN:**  
Suitable for ages 13  
and older; lyrics may  
contain mild  
suggestive themes.

### MTV Games RockBand 2

**MSRP: \$49.99 to \$59.99**

SKU: 8944832 (Wii)  
8945083 (Xbox 360)  
8944976 (PS3)  
8944921 (PS2)

[www.rockband.com](http://www.rockband.com)

### Game Synopsis

With RockBand 2, you can grab a couple of buddies and form a band to compete for the top spot with other rockers around the world. Try to get stars, longer multiplier streaks, and larger fan crowds through the collection of battle challengers you and your bandmates will face. You get to choose from an array of chart-topping rock songs from the 1960s, '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2000s. All you need to rock out is a microphone, drum set, guitar, and bass from the RockBand instrument collection.

### Perfect For

Music lovers who love to play it loud.

### Extra Detail

- Available for Xbox 360, PlayStation, and Wii
- More than 80 songs to choose from
- Import songs from the original RockBand or download additional tracks
- Battle of the Bands lets you challenge people on your friends list
- The Tour Challenge allows you to play your way to unlocking more difficult songs
- World Tour lets solo acts seek popularity throughout 59 venues in 24 cities
- Build your drumming skills with the Drum Trainer
- Play in the worry-free No-Fail Mode

### Coollest Feature

You can play RockBand 2 with your friends, or you can practice by yourself in Solo mode.

## Which Gaming System Is Best For You?

Game consoles and portable devices are no longer limited to gameplay. They can also access the Internet, download media, and play your favorite DVDs or CDs. To help you find a gaming device that will suit you well, here's a comparison of the most popular selections you can find at your local CE retailer.

		Hard drive size	Compatible memory cards	Optical drive	Video resolution output	Ports
	What It Means	How much data the system can hold	Cards that will let you save and off-load data, such as game saves or personal media	Aside from game discs, other playable media formats	Highest number of video pixels that are sent to a TV or portable console screen	Hookups for controllers, as well as video and audio output
Console Devices	 <b>Sony PlayStation 3 (80GB)</b> MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 8982988	80GB 2.5-inch Serial ATA	SD, MMC, CF Type I/II, Microdrive, and Memory Stick PRO/PRO Duo	CD-RW/ DVD±RW/ BD	1,920 x 1,080	1 Ethernet, 1 A/V, 1 Optical digital audio, 2 USB, 1 HDMI
	 <b>Sony PlayStation 2</b> MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 7266638	N/A; uses two memory card slots to save game data	PlayStation Memory Card (8MB)	CD-RW/ DVD±RW	1,280 x 1,024	2 controller, 2 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 A/V Multi-out, 1 Optical Digital out, 1 FireWire
	 <b>Nintendo Wii</b> MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 8008559	512MB	SD/Nintendo GameCube Memory Card	Can only play game titles	720 x 480	4 controller, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 1 S-Video, 2 USB
	 <b>Microsoft Xbox 360 Elite</b> MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 8301492	120GB	Xbox 360 Memory Unit	CD-RW/ DVD±RW	1,920 x 1,080	1 A/V cable, 3 USB, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 4 controller
Portable Devices	 <b>Nintendo DSi</b> MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9249725 (blue)	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
	 <b>Nintendo DS Lite</b> MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 8847956 (metallic rose)	None	None	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone
	 <b>Sony PlayStation Portable 3000</b> MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9175082	None	Memory Stick Duo	UMD (Universal Media Disc)	480 x 272	1 video out/ headset connector, 1 USB, 1 DC out

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



Media streaming	Online community	Wi-Fi compatibility	Parental controls	Compatible game formats	Available accessories	Controllers	Perfect for
Send media wirelessly from the console to other devices and vice versa	Web site membership for downloads, upgrades, and more	Console can access the Internet without a cable hookup	Helps parents decide what content their kids can or cannot access	Game titles that can be played on the game system	Extras that can help enhance your gaming enjoyment	Included controllers; wired/wireless controller compatibility	Who can benefit from the special features the gaming system offers
Yes	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b/g	Options available for PS3 games on PS Network, DVDs, BDs, and Internet	Sony PlayStation 3 titles and select PlayStation 2 titles	Blu-ray Disc remote, Bluetooth headsets	Includes 1 DualShock 3 wireless controller; Both	Anyone on a budget who wants the full Internet gaming experience with an integrated DVD player
No	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	No, only a wired Internet connection is available	Options available for DVDs	Sony PlayStation and PlayStation 2 titles	Cordless controllers, memory cards, Rock Band and Guitar Hero controllers	Includes 1 DualShock 2 analog controller; Both	Anyone on a budget who wants the full Internet gaming experience with an integrated DVD player
Yes	Yes, various paid and free Wii Channels are available	Yes, 802.11b/g	Options available for Wii titles, online interaction, downloads, user-created content, and more	Nintendo GameCube and Wii titles	Nunchuck, wireless Wiimote, wheel, and classic (wired) controllers; wireless sensor bar	Includes 1 wireless Wiimote and nunchuck; Both (some titles require a wired Wiimote)	Gamers of any age who want a unique, wireless gaming experience that requires little gaming knowledge
Yes	Yes, free Xbox Live Silver membership with one month free Xbox Live Gold	No, only a wired Internet connection is available	Options available for Xbox titles, DVDs, and Xbox LIVE interaction	Microsoft Xbox and Xbox 360 titles	Wireless headset, hard drive, wired and wireless controllers	Includes 1 wireless controller; Both	Those who want to play games in true HD with full theatrical sound and plenty of hard drive space
Yes	DSiWare (DSi online store)	Yes, 802.11	Available for Nintendo DSi content	Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	Audio headset, battery power pack, screen protectors, carrying cases, styli	N/A	Users who want a handheld gaming system that lets them take, personalize, and share photos, too
No	Yes, free Nintendo Wi-Fi connection	Yes, 802.11b	No	Nintendo DS and Game Boy Advance titles	Cases, AC adapter, headphones with microphone, styli, cartridge case	N/A	Anyone who will appreciate the uniqueness of dual touchscreens and voice-control gaming
No	Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b	Options available for UMDs, Internet, and video downloads	PlayStation Portable titles	Battery charger, traveler case, media manager software, A/V cable, AC adapter	N/A	Media buffs who want to enjoy movies, photos, and music when they're on the go

# ESRB Game Ratings & Descriptions

## Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

### ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB ([www.esrb.org](http://www.esrb.org)) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



**Early Childhood.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages three and older. These software titles contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.



**Everyone.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages six and older. Games in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language.



**Everyone 10+.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 10 and older. Games in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and language, as well as minimal suggestive themes.



**Teen.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language.



**Mature.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Games in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language.



**Adults Only.** Titles with this rating have content that should only be played by persons 18 years and older. Games in this category may include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity.

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.



### Gaming Tips

#### *For Parents*

Aside from checking ESRB ratings, there are other ways you can ensure that the games your youngsters are playing are age appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.
- Find game reviews, screenshots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use game parental controls to restrict mature and inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and online games often have live player chats, as well as other user-generated content.





### **Sima XL Theater 96\"/>**

Invite the neighbors over to watch summer flicks outside.

**\$749.99**

### **Insignia Simulated Rock Outdoor Speakers**

Add some fun tunes to your backyard events.

**\$102.98**



Summer Fun

The kids are out of school, and your family can't resist taking advantage of the warmer temps outside. To make this time of year a little more fun, tote along some products from your local CE retailer. There are plenty of items that are sure to make this the best summer yet.



### **Asus Eee PC Netbook with Intel Atom Processor N270**

Browse the 'Net as your kids play on the jungle gym.

**\$599.99**

### **Cuisinart Pure Indulgence 2-quart Ice Cream Maker**

Beat the heat with an ice cream treat.

**\$81.99**



### **Bushnell PowerView 8x21 Compact Binoculars**

Don't miss any of the action during your daughter's little league game.

**\$15.99**

### **Viper Remote Start System with Keyless Entry**

Give your car a cool-down before you hit the road.

**\$299.99**



### **Kodak Pocket Video Camera With 2.4-inch Screen**

Encourage your brood to film their own summer flicks.

**\$159.99**





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# Get All The Details

on new CE products with *First Glimpse's* product profile sections

